

# STARS AND STRIPES®

**No rest for  
AF Marathon  
champion**

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Capt. Jill Metzger



**U.S. may up Iraq  
force by 20,000,  
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**6 films make  
Jude Law focus  
of Hollywood**

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Volume 2, No. 200 © EPSS 2004 MIDEAST EDITION

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2004

# Report: Bush will ask for \$70B in war funds

Iraq, Afghanistan request would exceed Congress expectations

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Show  
a little  
love for ...

The  
Scary  
Guy

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Airman 1st Class Shawn Kirkbride joins The Scary Guy — his legal name since 1998 — in role-playing during the tattooed motivational speaker's presentation Monday at the First Term Airman's Center at RAF Mildenhall, England. The Scary Guy has a message of love and compassion, two things he was without for most of his life, he says.

RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**N.Y. airline crash:** The co-pilot of American Airlines Flight 587 caused the November 2001 crash that claimed the lives of 265 people, the staff of the nation's airline safety agency reported Tuesday in Washington.

Investigator Robert Benzon of the National Transportation Safety Board staff said the co-pilot's response to turbulence, seconds after the Airbus A300-600 plane took off from New York's John F. Kennedy International Airport, was "unnecessary and aggressive."

Both Airbus Industrie, which manufactured the jetliner, and American Airlines, which trained co-pilot First Officer Sten Molin, agree that if he had taken his foot off the rudder pedal, the tail wouldn't have broken off, the plane wouldn't have plunged into a New York City neighborhood.

**Fatal fire:** The mother of six of the seven children killed Sunday in a Toledo, Ohio, fire told family members that she did everything she could to get the kids out, but she was overwhelmed by the smoke.

After trying to get upstairs to where her children and a cousin were trapped, Melinda Ragland ran to a neighbor's apartment for help, her mother, Ora Ragland, said Monday. The children, ages 6 months to 7 years, died from smoke inhalation, the Lucas County coroner ruled Monday.

**Laci Peterson murder case:** Scott Peterson's defense lawyers in Redwood City, Calif., rested their case Tuesday without calling him to the stand.

Judge Alfred A. Delucchi told jurors the prosecution would call eight rebuttal witnesses Wednesday.

After any defense rebuttal to that, the court will not be in session again until Monday, when closing arguments are set to begin.

The jury should get the case by Nov. 3, Delucchi said. Peterson is charged with two counts of murder in the death of his pregnant wife, Laci, who disappeared in December 2002, and the fetus she carried.

**Robert Blake trial:** Robert Blake and his lawyer were not present, but the former "Baretta" star was on everyone's mind as prospective jurors in Los Angeles were screened for a panel that will decide whether the actor murdered his wife.

"Oh, geez!" exclaimed one woman when it was announced that the group was called for the high-profile Blake trial, which could last five months. Many of the panelists sighed and shook their heads.

Blake, 71, will stand trial for murder in the death of his wife, Bonnie Lee Bakley.

### World

**Darfur talks break off:** A second day of peace talks on the crisis in Sudan's Darfur region broke off early Tuesday after Darfur rebels called for more time to prepare proposals for a long-term political resolution to the conflict.

Delegates said the African Union-brokered talks in Nigeria's capital, Abuja, would resume Wednesday.

The talks opened Monday with both sides accusing the other of violating a cease-fire repeatedly over the last several days.

The United Nations has called Darfur the world's most humanitarian crisis and said it has claimed 70,000 lives since March, while 1.5 million have fled their homes since February 2003.

**Congo rape crisis:** Armed combatants have brutally raped tens of thousands of women, girls and babies in war-ravaged Congo, and many are dying "needlessly" because the country's health care system is incapable of dealing with the crisis, an interna-



**North Korean asylum-seekers:** A Chinese man makes repairs Monday to a damaged fence around the South Korean Consulate in Beijing. As many as 19 people, all believed to be North Korean asylum-seekers, tried to dash into the building Monday, but only three succeeded, a diplomat and a news report said. China called on foreign embassies on Tuesday to stop giving shelter to North Korean asylum-seekers, complaining they are illegal migrants.

tional rights group said Tuesday.

London-based Amnesty International said the huge number of rape cases "represents a human rights and health crisis requiring both an immediate and a long-term response."

Congo's impoverished, transitional government is struggling to cope with the aftermath of a 1990-2002 war that divided the Europe-sized nation into lawless rebel fiefdoms.

**Srebrenica mass graves:** Forensics experts said Tuesday they had found a total of 94 bodies during the exhumation of a Bosnian mass grave containing victims of the 1995 Srebrenica massacre.

The experts, which completed the exhumation Tuesday afternoon, found 55 complete bodies and 39 partial remains in the grave, said Murat Hurcic, an official with the missing persons commission in the Muslim-Croat part of Bosnia. The grave is located in Snagovo, near Zvornik and the border with Serbia.

Based on documents found next to the bodies, the dead appeared to be Bosnian Muslims killed in the 1995 massacre in nearby Srebrenica, the worst slaughter of civilians in Europe since World War II.

**Mark Thatcher in court:** Lawyers for Sir Mark Thatcher argued Tuesday in court in Cape Town, South Africa, against an order forcing the son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to answer questions about an alleged coup attempt that failed in Equatorial Guinea.

The hearings Tuesday and Wednesday focus on the legality of the government subpoena of Thatcher, a 51-year-old businessman who has lived in South Africa since 1995. He was arrested in Cape Town on Aug. 25.

Equatorial Guinea wants to question a number of prominent Britons, including Thatcher, about allegations they financed a plot earlier this year to overthrow President Teodoro Obiang Nguema, who has ruled Africa's third-largest oil producer for the past 25 years.

**Turkey and the EU:** Turkish Foreign Minister Abdullah Gul said Tuesday his country hopes the European Union will decide to formally open admission talks, adding that Ankara is prepared for difficult negotiations.

Gul, in Prague, Czech Republic, on a two-day visit, told reporters that Turkish officials hoped that EU officials would decide in December in favor of opening the talks.

Turkey has been striving for membership

in the European Union since 1963, when the EU made the country an associate member. Over the decades, European leaders put off a decision on whether Ankara should be allowed to join.

### War on terrorism

**Sept. 11 terror trial:** Suspected lead Sept. 11, hijacker Mohamed Atta said months before the attacks that he was a pilot and wanted to destroy American "symbols," a witness in the trial of a Moroccan man charged with helping the suicide pilots testified Tuesday in Hamburg, Germany.

However, the presiding judge in the retrial of Moumir el Motassadeq questioned the credibility of the testimony by Roger Luetz, a Hamburg restaurant owner, noting that he had earlier given conflicting stories in questioning by police.

El Motassadeq is charged with more than 3,000 counts of accessory to murder and membership in a terrorist organization. He has acknowledged knowing the Hamburg-based hijackers, but says he was unaware of their plot.

**Jakarta hotel bombing:** An Indonesian court on Tuesday sentenced the younger brother of alleged Southeast Asian terror leader Hambali to four years in jail on charges of helping finance last year's bombing of the J.W. Marriott hotel in Jakarta, Indonesia. Russian Guranov, one of four Indonesian students deported from Pakistan in December, was found guilty by a three-judge panel at Central Jakarta District Court of violating the country's anti-terror law.

The verdict was the latest in a series against Islamic militants in the world's most populous Muslim nation, which was thrust onto the front lines of the global war on terror by the 2002 Bali nightclub bombings.

**Swedish Gitmo detainee:** A Swede held for more than two years at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, by the U.S. military will get financial help from the Swedish government if he pursues his planned lawsuit against the United States, an official said Tuesday.

Mehdi-Muhammed Ghezali, a Swede of Algerian origin, was released in July without charge from the U.S. naval base on Cuba's southeastern tip, where he was one of hundreds held on suspicion of links to al-Qaida or the ousted Taliban regime in Afghanistan. He plans to file a joint lawsuit together with other European prisoners who were released this summer, his lawyer Peter Athina said.

Stories and photo from wire services

# Report: Bush to ask for \$70B in war funds

By JONATHAN WEISMAN  
AND THOMAS E. RICKS

The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Bush administration intends to seek about \$70 billion in emergency funding for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan early next year, pushing total war costs close to \$25 billion since the invasion of Iraq early last year, Pentagon and congressional officials said Monday.

White House budget office spokesman Chad Kolton emphasized that final decisions on the supplemental spending request will not be made until shortly before the request is sent to Congress. That may not happen until early February, when President

Bush submits his budget for fiscal 2006, assuming he wins re-election.

But Pentagon and House Appropriations Committee aides said the Defense Department and military services are scrambling to get their final requests to the White House Office of Management and Budget by mid-November, shortly after the election. The new numbers underscore that the war is going to be far more costly and intense, and last longer, than the administration first suggested.

The Army is expected to request at least an additional \$30 billion for combat activity in Iraq, with \$6 billion more needed to begin refurbishing equipment

that has been worn down or destroyed by unexpectedly intense combat, another Appropriations Committee aide said. The deferral of needed repairs over the past year has added to maintenance costs, which can no longer be delayed, a senior Pentagon official said.

The Army is expected to ask for as much as \$10 billion more for its conversion to a swift expeditionary force. The Marines will come in with a separate request, as will the Defense Logistics Agency and other components of the Department of Defense. The State Department will need considerably more funds to finance construction and operations at the sprawling embassy

complex in Baghdad. The Central Intelligence Agency's request would come on top of those.

"I don't have a number, and (administration officials) have not been forthcoming, but we expect it will be pretty large," said James Dyer, Republican chief of staff of the Appropriations Committee.

Bush has said for months that he would make an additional request for the war next year, but the new estimates are the first glimpse of its magnitude. A \$70 billion request would be considerably larger than lawmakers had anticipated earlier this year. After the president unexpectedly submitted an \$87 billion request for the Iraq and Afghanistan ef-

forts last year, many Republicans angrily expressed sticker shock and implored the administration not to surprise them again.

This request would come on top of \$25 billion in war spending allocated by Congress for the fiscal year that began Oct. 1. The two bills combined suggest the cost of combat is escalating from the \$65 billion spent by the military in 2004 and the \$52.4 billion allocated in 2003, as U.S. troops face insurgencies that have proven far more lethal than expected at this point.

"We're still evaluating what our commitments will be, and we will submit a request that fully supports those commitments," Kolton said.

## Allawi blames coalition for poor security in ambush

By TINI TRAN

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Iraq's interim prime minister blamed U.S.-led coalition forces Tuesday for "great negligence" in the ambush that killed about 50 American-trained soldiers, and a U.S. airstrike in Fallujah killed an aide to Jordanian terrorist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the military said.

An Iraqi insurgent group, meanwhile, said on a Web site it had taken 11 Iraqi National Guard soldiers hostage.

They were seized on a highway between Baghdad and Hillah, according to the Internet posting by the militant group, the Ansar al-Sunnah Army. The posting included the names of all 11.

The authenticity of the posting could not immediately be verified. The movement claimed responsibility for a number of attacks and hostage takings, including the kidnap and murder of 12 Nepalese, who were seized in August.

Interim Prime Minister Ayad Allawi blamed the coalition for poor security in Saturday's ambush about 95 miles east of Baghdad.

"This is a heinous crime where a group of National Guards were targeted," Allawi said. "There was great negligence on the part of some coalition forces. It seems there was sort of dereliction on doing Iraq and Iraqi people harm."



U.S. Marines from the 2nd Battalion, 5th Marine Regiment run to a building after detonating explosives to open a gate during a mission in Ramadi, Iraq, on Tuesday.

The attack on the soldiers, who were returning home on leave, occurred on a remote eastern highway when their buses were stopped by insurgents at a fake checkpoint, police and defense officials said.

Some of the bodies were found in rows — shot execution-style in the head, the Defense Ministry said. Other bodies were found on a burned bus nearby.

Allawi told the Iraqi National Council: "You should expect an escalation in terrorist acts."

The U.S. military said the early-morning raid in Fallujah struck a safe house used by al-Zarqawi's group. U.S. forces have

stepped up aerial and artillery assaults on Fallujah in recent weeks in an attempt to root out insurgents.

Fallujah, 40 miles west of Baghdad, fell under rebel control after the Bush administration ordered Marines to lift their three-week siege of the city in April.

The United States has offered a \$25 million bounty for the capture or killing of al-Zarqawi, whose group has claimed responsibility in numerous suicide bombings and beheadings of foreign hostages, including three Americans.

"Recent strikes and raids targeting the Abu Musab al-Zarqawi network have severely degraded its ability to conduct attacks," the U.S. statement said. It did not identify the slain al-Zarqawi aide.

In London, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshiyar Zebari said the interim government is working to achieve a political solution to the military standoff around Fallujah.

"We are trying to exhaust all political channels and avenues before any final decision is made," Zebari told British Broadcasting Corp. radio. "Fallujah is one hot spot that we need really to resolve before getting to elections" scheduled for January.

A masked gunman, meanwhile, warned in a videotape that insurgents will attack all Iraqi and multinational military and civilian targets with "weapons and military tactics they have not experienced" if U.S. troops try to storm the city.

In the videotape, the gunman, dressed in an old-style Iraqi army uniform, read the statement on behalf of the "factions of the Islamic Resistance Movement in Iraq."

## U.S. may up Iraq force, paper says

By LISA BURGESS

Stars and Stripes

ARLINGTON, Va. — Pentagon planners are considering options to boost troop levels during the planned elections in Iraq in January that include delaying the departure of some units, while speeding up the deployment of others, according to an article Tuesday in USA TODAY.

The article said the plan would increase could be around 20,000 troops.

Pentagon officials would not confirm details of the considerations, but acknowledged that "contingency planning" was under way for the election period.

"There is ongoing planning related to troop levels and security requirements during the election period," a Pentagon official told Stars and Stripes. "It is a germane issue to the combat commander."

The combat commander is Gen. John Abizaid, head of the Florida-based U.S. Central Command, which has operational responsibility for Iraq.

However, "it would be inappropriate to speculate what might come out of this planning process, because there's a variety of conclusions that can be reached," said the official, who asked not to be named.

The "easiest option" would be to keep the 1st Cavalry Division in Iraq beyond its expected January redeployment date and add a Senate committee in the Army's 3rd Infantry Division, the USA TODAY story said.

Other choices include using U.S. troops now posted to Kuwait or bringing units from the Army's 82nd Airborne from Afghanistan, where they have been helping provide security for the recent elections there, the story said.

Abizaid told a Senate committee in September that he would like to have as many as 160,000 troops on hand in Iraq to select the postwar leadership, which is to select the group of Iraqis who will write an official constitution for the country.

Those elections are supposed to be held before Jan. 31.

Abizaid told Congress he would prefer the additional troops come from coalition partners. But the Bush administration has had problems convincing other countries to contribute additional troops.

The United States has about 138,000 servicemen currently in Iraq.

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## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Monday, at least 1,106 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 845 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department's tally. The figures include three military civilians.

The AP count is three higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated Monday at 10 a.m. EDT.

The British military has reported 67 deaths; Italy, 19; Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, two; Thailand, two; the

Netherlands, two; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 968 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 736 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest death reported by the military:

■ A roadside bomb killed one soldier in western Baghdad.

The latest identification reported by the military:

■ No identifications reported.

# "I'm not an engineer, but I play one on TV"

## GI's at FOB Hawk in Iraq switch gears to plan projects, hear claims

BY WARD SANDERSON

Stars and Stripes

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE HAWK, Iraq** — Wednesday was always the same: The Sudanese man still showed up, he still lacked his left foot, he still wanted his \$17,000.

The lieutenant wanted to give assurance that the money would be here next week. But 1st Lt. Murugan Palani could not do that. He could only say he was trying and would keep trying until he had an answer. Palani believed the Sudanese man's story about the money, its seizure at the border, the prison and the mortar blast that took the foot.

The Sudanese man, Ibrahim, would never take Palani's own money, which he offered in case Ibrahim was hungry. Ibrahim had been at this for a year, Palani had known many shysters and Ibrahim seemed the real thing.

"Tell him I'm very sorry," Palani told the interpreter. "Does he have a telephone number where we can call him?"

This is what the soldiers provide at an outpost in Abu Ghraib — a place for people to approach them and make claims against them, to plan public projects with them, to ask them for advice. This was where the Americans left the checkpoints of Camp Liberty and sat down with the people of the town. This where they met men such as Ibrahim.

The \$1-year-old's money was seized by the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment at the border, he said. The soldiers of that regiment believed he was a terrorist and put him in prison. Insurgents later would fire on the prison and Ibrahim lost his foot to a mortar blast. Eventually, soldiers believed Ibrahim's story, that he had been working abroad for many years and was fleeing the war with his savings.

Palani belonged to a whole different outfit, the 1st Cavalry Division's 2nd Battalion, 12th Cavalry Regiment. He had no record of the money. So he waited until some fund, somewhere, could cough up Ibrahim's \$17,000.

Palani, 27, originally was a tank platoon leader and was somewhat new to this Army equivalent of the insurance claims business. He was not alone in such a fix. Down the hall, 2nd Lt. Daniel Gomez, all of 22, had gone from psychology major to instant engineer.

"I'm not an engineer," Gomez said, "but I play one on TV."

His unit had spent something like \$3 million on construction projects so far. Last month, a truck bomb reduced one of them, a multi-story building, to rubble, killing several people, including a U.S. soldier. Now, the sanitation official who met with him discussed building a new one. But the official bled at the prospect of being photographed speaking with Gomez, a

soldier.

The sanitation official also did not want responsibility over the garbage trucks Gomez had conjured, though he had asked for them. He said he could not guard them. A guard would run when the thieves with Kalashnikovs came. This frustrated Gomez. He and his interpreter argued over it, why wouldn't an Iraqi guard stay at his post. The interpreter said not every Iraqi is the same.

"It's a pain in the ass," Gomez said. "There's no such thing as a guard here in Iraq. We're the guards."

Contractors have had to give money to mosques for protection. Tough guys also will say, "Give me a job or I'll kill you," and the contractor obliges with employment.

Insurgents, meanwhile, have threatened the entire town, the sanitation official said. They left letters telling everyone to stop construction over the holy month of Ramadan, or their families would pay.

"It says, 'We'll kill you-Love, the Mujahidin?'" Gomez asked the translator.

"Yes."

"It says 'Love?'"

Gomez uses humor to get through these things. And there were many things. He has seen — and fixed — schools where the children defecated on the bathroom floor because there was no running water.

The basics of engineering provide a less visual problem. The Army had to translate the plans of Arab engineers first into normal Arabic from scientific Arabic, and then into English when they maybe into English engineer speak.

"For some reason, 'dual-flanged conductor pipes' doesn't translate very well," Gomez said. "It doesn't roll off the tongue."

He also was annoyed at the way the U.S. government dealt with money. It took six layers of bureaucracy before the money left Uncle Sam's coffers and reached his projects, Gomez said, and most of them were in the form of big contractors. He feared the amount of money they sucked off before he ever saw a cent. Gomez uses local, yet reliable, contractors to cut costs.

Before Wednesday, Gomez had pointed to a figure on a spreadsheet to explain the difference between in-hand and earmarked money.

In bed with \$1,200,000 in my hand, and the colonel tells me what to do, we would be phenomenal. You could fix schools, pave roads, fix water pipes and buy electrical equipment."

But for now, the figure was just liquid crystal digits on his laptop.

In bed with Gomez's great ideas and Palani's meditations was the payout window, where the Iraqis showed up in eager droves. The soldiers would bring \$50,000 for the day's business. The Americans would pay \$1,000 for someone



PHOTOS BY WARD SANDERSON/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** 1st Lt. Murugan Palani talks via interpreter to a Sudanese man trying to recover money he said the military wrongfully seized. He claims he was mistaken for a terrorist and put in prison, where he lost his left foot during an insurgent mortar attack. **Forward Operating Base Hawk in Abu Ghraib in Iraq is an outpost for people to make claims against the government, plan public projects or to ask for advice. Below:** An Iraqi approaches a military claims window manned by Spc. Jeffrey Jackson, right.

wrongly injured in a military strike, \$2,500 for a death, and \$500 to \$700 for minor car damage. A totaled vehicle would be replaced at value.

Spc. Jeffrey Jackson counted the money and slapped it down before the locals in crisp, green stacks. He would yell whenever there was a scuffle.

An interpreter said three out of 10 claims were fraudulent, the work of scammers or terrorists in search of easy money, and the claims required scrutiny.

Enter Palani. The lieutenant spoke with the Sudanese man with no left foot and no money and whom he believed.

Ibrahim was downcast: at the ambiguity of the fate of the money. He had asked the lieutenant to tell him truthfully if he would see it. Ibrahim said it was hard on his nerves.

He hadn't seen his children in 17 years. He wanted to know whether he should leave for home.

Palani wanted to do something for the man until the next Wednesday visit. But not a handout. Ibrahim never wanted a handout.

Palani had been trying for a prosthetic leg for Ibrahim. How about a wheelchair for now? Ibrahim looked at the folded thing. Yes, he knew how to use it. No, he couldn't get it home. Palani arranged him a ride.

It was the least he could do, the lieutenant said.

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# Timing of Iraqi weapons theft in dispute

BY MARK MAZZETTI AND  
MAGGIE FARLEY

Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The White House has acknowledged that nearly 380 tons of powerful explosives are missing from a weapons facility that American forces failed to guard following the U.S. invasion of Iraq, but downplayed the significance of the finding.

The timing of the theft was in dispute. One Pentagon official said that when U.S. forces advancing toward Baghdad reached the Al Qaiqa military facility in early April

2003, the weapons cache was already gone. He suggested Americans never had a chance to safeguard the material, which had been labeled and was being monitored by U.N. weapons inspectors.

"It had already been looted by the time U.S. forces went through there," said a senior Defense official. "When the troops went in, they never saw anything that was tagged."

Some cast doubt on the Pentagon's claim. Given the size of the missing cache, it would have been difficult to move undetected before the U.S. invasion, when U.S. spy satellites were monitoring activity at

sites suspected of concealing nuclear and biological weapons.

"You don't just move this stuff in the middle of the night," said one former U.S. intelligence official who worked in Baghdad.

Iraqi officials reported to the International Atomic Energy Agency — the U.N. monitoring group — earlier this month that the explosives were looted after April 9, 2003, when U.S. forces entered Baghdad.

IAEA officials verified the explosives were still at the site and under seal in January 2003, the last time the inspectors were there.

The IAEA had been monitoring the mate-

rial — known as HMX and RDX — as part of the U.N. inspections program following the 1991 Persian Gulf War.

Asked if U.S. troops were ever ordered to guard the facility, where Saddam built conventional warheads and where the IAEA dismantled parts of his nuclear program after the Gulf War, one Defense official responded, "Not that I'm aware of."

Officials at the White House, State Department and Pentagon insisted that 380 tons of stolen material are not a nuclear threat, noting that roughly 400,000 tons of munitions collected throughout Iraq have either been destroyed or are in U.S. custody.

## Education center opens door to advance troops' futures

BY JULIANA GITTLER

Stars and Stripes

LSA ANACONDA, Iraq — Soldiers interested to advance their career, change jobs, become an officer or knock out some college courses during their down time in Iraq now have a few classrooms to try to reach those goals at LSA Anaconda.

"They're basically in a holding pattern while they're deployed," said LSA Anaconda and 13th Corps Support Command, Command Sgt. Maj. Dan Elder. "They want to be promoted, they want to be warrant officers. They want to further their career. Education isn't necessarily part of the deployment package [so] we had to carve out something."

This past spring, an education center at the base started offering free classes and preparation programs for tests that can further a servicemember's military or civilian career.

It's the pet project of Army Reserve Maj. Kristi Hilton, usually a medical logistician and patient administrator in the Army, but at a secondary special education teacher in her civilian life.

"It was really important for soldiers to have a quiet place," said Hilton, "as quiet as you can have here, to let them get online."

The base commander gave Hilton, now the education officer in charge, a building for classrooms, a lecture hall and computer lab.

In the spring, an Air Force unit arrived and brought with it an education services officer certified



JULIANA GITTLER/Stars and Stripes

Staff Sgt. Thomas Barnhart, education center noncommissioned officer-in-charge, teaches an Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery class in the center, currently under construction.

to administer standardized tests. The two services agreed to give soldiers the same benefits.

The current education services officer, Master Sgt. Darryl King with the 32nd Air Expeditionary Wing, can administer several standardized tests, including the Law School Admission Test and a variety of College Level Examination

Program tests that give college credit for passing certain exams. Others can pursue a high school General Equivalency Diploma.

King can administer CLEP tests in 104 subjects.

"It's enough subjects to cover your general [college] requirements at least," King said.

The center may also create a few teachers. Pilots have volunteered to help prepare soldiers for the flight aptitude test required to become an aviator. Others on base teach computer courses and even an Arabic class.

For soldiers wishing to change careers or enter officer programs, the center has a

three-week study session for the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery, the ASVAB. Servicemembers who have taken the course have raised their ASVAB scores by 20 points or more, Elder said.

"It's not a few points, it's a vast improvement," he said.

Spc. Randolph Scott, with the 302nd Transportation Company, will leave Iraq in February with 18 college credits, six earned through the CLEP system and 12 more through online classes.

Scott was registered for college when he was activated for the Reserves last year. Through the center, he converted his registration to online and began classes, he said.

Since the center opened, thousands of people have passed through and taken tests and classes or enrolled in college online, said Hilton, who is helping other posts start similar programs.

She briefed command sergeants major in Baghdad and has worked with 50 installations to help them get the students cracking the books, she said.

The education center is free and open to all services and Department of Defense civilians.

"It's another way to support soldiers," Elder said. "Bettering yourself, getting a degree. That's one of the goals here, to have a better soldier."

E-mail Juliana Gittler at: gittlerj@pstripes.osd.mil

## GI in Kuwait dies after running Army Ten-Miler

BY STEVE LEWIS

Stars and Stripes

CAMP BUEHRING, Kuwait — A soldier in Kuwait collapsed and died Sunday morning shortly after completing the local version of the Army Ten-Miler race.

The soldier, who witnesses said was a Georgia National Guardsman based at Camp Buehring, fell over near the finish line. About a half-dozen people gathered around and tried to revive him.

"They were giving him chest compressions for what seemed like an eternity," said a young soldier who witnessed the rescue effort.

The race organizer, Sgt. 1st Class Deborah George, called over the loudspeaker for medics.

They tried four times to revive him with an electric defibrillator. Later, the soldier was loaded aboard a helicopter and flown to the hospital at Camp Arifjan. He was pronounced dead shortly after arriving there, according to a statement from the Coalition Forces Land Component Command.

The soldier's name is being released by the Pentagon unit at least 24 hours after his family has been notified, according to Department of Defense policy.

About 700 servicemembers serving at bases in Kuwait joined in the race at Camp Buehring, held in conjunction with the annual Army-sponsored race in Washington, D.C. The race was run in the early morning, with temperatures in the upper 70s or low 80s. It was the first time the race had been held in Kuwait.

After the helicopter left with the soldier, a chaplain led race participants and spectators in prayer. There was little celebration as race organizers handed out medals to the winners.

E-mail Steve Lewis at: lewises@mail.estripes.osd.mil

## 1st ID engineers build six Iraqi police stations

Engineers from the 1st Infantry Division's 2nd Brigade Combat Team built six police stations in six days earlier this month in Samarra, Iraq, according to a news release from the 1st ID-led Task Force Dagger in Tikrit.

The engineers, from the 216th Engineer Battalion and other units, constructed the stations at Forward Operating Base Speicher out of cinder blocks at a cost of about \$100,000 apiece, the release said. Then they were trucked to Samarra, a city of 200,000 people northwest of Baghdad that until recently had been under rebel control.

The stations, for Iraqi police, were fortified with concrete barricades able to withstand rocket-propelled grenades, car bombs and mortars, according to the release. The engineers also furnished them with desks and chairs and even paper and brooms.

The release said more construction on schools, hospitals and streets is planned. The rebuilding of Samarra has fallen behind other Iraqi cities because of rebel activity that prevented U.S. or Iraqi military patrols there from May until early October, when a joint U.S.-Iraqi military offensive retook the city.

From staff reports

# Freelance jailers appeal Afghan convictions

By AMIR SHAH

The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Three Americans convicted of torturing Afghans on a freelance counter-terror mission will appear in court later this week to appeal the decision, a senior official said Tuesday.

Jonathan Idema, Edward Caraballo and Brent Bennett were sentenced last month to 8-10 years in jail after a trial that embarrassed U.S. and NATO forces and sowed confusion about America's role in the war-shattered country.

Gen. Abdul Fatah, a senior Afghan prosecutor, said Idema had asked at a closed-door preliminary appeal hearing last week for more time for his lawyer to ar-

rive and to arrange a translator, and that the appeal was set to start Saturday.

"We told him that was OK," Fatah said, adding that authorities hoped to prevent a repeat of the accusations by Idema and his lawyers during the first trial that the prosecution was a sham. "This guy is a bit of a troublemaker."

Idema, the group's leader, Bennett, his right-hand man, and television cameraman Caraballo were arrested on July 5 when Afghan security forces raided a house in downtown Kabul and discovered eight Afghans who said they had been tortured.

Idema, a 48-year-old former soldier from Fayetteville, North Carolina, insists they were tracking down terror suspects including al-Qaida leader Osama bin Laden

in close cooperation with American and Afghan security forces.

The U.S. government has offered a \$50 million reward for the capture of bin Laden.

On Sept. 15, a lower court convicted all three of running an illegal jail, torture and illegal entry into Afghanistan after a trial marred by faulty translation and chaotic procedures.

Defense lawyers were given no opportunity to cross-examine prosecution witnesses, and the judge missed videotapes purporting to show Idema in telephone contact with U.S. defense officials.

The American military acknowledges accepting a prisoner from Idema, but insists it realized shortly afterward that he was an

impostor. The prisoner was released without charge. NATO peacekeepers also helped the trio out on three raids, later saying they were duped.

The three are being held at Kabul's Pul-e Charki prison, a facility notorious in Afghanistan as the scene of summary executions and ghastly conditions.

But officials said they had gone out of their way to make the Americans' stay comfortable.

Gen. Abdulsalam Bakshi, the director of prisons, said the trio were lodging together in "a nice room."

"They have a separate bathroom, carpet, TV and good food," Bakshi said. "The prisoners are from foreign countries, and we should provide them with the standard of living they are accustomed to."

## Foreign Service labor union calls for stronger security

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The labor union that represents 23,000 current and former U.S. foreign service workers called on Monday for a security buildup in response to the death of an American diplomat in Iraq.

John W. Limbert, president of the American Foreign Service Association, said the union recognizes it is impossible to provide 100 percent protection "for our personnel who staff the front lines of American diplomacy."

But he said much work remains to be done to bring U.S. embassies, consulates and missions up to security standards.

The State Department responded that "security is an issue that we look at constantly." Deputy spokesman Adam Erelli said that was one of the things the slain diplomat, Edward Seitz, 41, of Parma, Ohio, was doing in Iraq.

Seitz, an agent with the department's Bureau of

Diplomatic Security, was killed Saturday night in Camp Victory, the headquarters of the U.S.-led coalition's ground forces command.

"For us, it is a tragic loss," Erelli said. "There are many who are bravely sacrificing in Iraq. They are one of our own."

He is believed to be the first U.S. diplomat killed in Iraq since the war began in 2003. Al-Jazeera television reported Sunday that the militant Islamic Army of Iraq claimed responsibility for the attack.

In a statement, the American Foreign Service Association said "we strongly encourage the government to review the security arrangements for protecting our dedicated colleagues, and to provide them the fullest measure of protection possible."

Since the 1998 bombing of U.S. Embassies in Kenya and Tanzania, which killed 53 U.S. government employees among 224 victims, some progress has been made in bringing U.S. missions up to security standards, the union said.

However, it added that "much work remains to be done."

## France: Iraq allegations 'inaccurate'

### Foreign Ministry says oil-for-food report lacks proof

By PAMELA SAMSON

The Associated Press

PARIS — Allegations that French companies illicitly reaped financial benefits from the U.N. oil-for-food program are "inaccurate" and unsubstantiated, France said in a press response to a U.S. arms inspector's report.

The report by Charles Duelfer, which alleged that French companies and individuals participated in a secret oil voucher program that helped Saddam Hussein circumvent U.N. sanctions, lacks proof to back up the charges, the Foreign Ministry said Monday.

The Foreign Ministry's response was an attempt to cast doubt on Duelfer's report, published earlier this month, listing foreign entities that received vouchers for oil contracts under the U.N. oil-for-food program.

The report said the names of American companies and individuals who may have been involved in oil deals weren't released because of U.S. privacy laws.

It alleged that Saddam's government had used the oil vouchers both to solicit kickbacks and to re-

ward countries and individuals willing to cooperate with Iraq's political goals. Companies and individuals from Russia, France and China dominated the list.

But only 8 percent of France's oil imports came from Iraq in 2001, a separate Foreign Ministry statement said. It added that of 1,129 companies from 86 countries on a list of registered buyers under the oil-for-food program, only 20 were French.

"It is completely inaccurate to say that France had major commercial interests in Iraq before the war," the statement insisted.

The oil-for-food program had an account at French bank BNP Paribas, but France said the bank was located in the United States, subject to U.S. regulations, and was one of two charged with managing the program.

"The account was also inspected twice yearly by the Board of Auditors of the United Nations," the ministry statement said.

In addition, many companies that participated in the oil-for-food program that were identified as French were not, the ministry said. Some companies were Amer-

ican but used French branches, agents or intermediaries, it said.

France is cooperating with former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Paul Volcker, who was appointed in April by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to head a panel investigating alleged corruption in the multibillion-dollar U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq.

Volcker was in Paris two weeks ago to meet with high-level officials who pledged their cooperation. France has agreed to declassify certain documents and make officials available for interviews.

Volcker's independent panel released the names of 248 companies that received Iraqi oil and 3,545 companies that exported goods to Saddam's government. Volcker has said that being on the list doesn't imply that a company is guilty of illicit, unethical or corrupt behavior.

France strongly believes that Duelfer, a CIA adviser who heads the Iraq Survey Group hunting for banned weapons in Iraq, was acting "outside his mandate" when he issued his report, a French diplomat said, speaking of "an attitude of anonymity." "Bribes may have been paid, but that is for Volcker to establish."



Vice President Dick Cheney shakes hands with supporters in Wilmington, Ohio, on Monday, where he spoke with a woman who lost a grandson in Iraq and has several other family members serving there.

## Soldier's grandmother asks Cheney for peace

By PATE YOST

The Associated Press

WILMINGTON, Ohio — Dick Cheney came face-to-face with the war in Iraq when a 62-year-old grandmother confronted him on the campaign trail.

Phyllis Hobbs told Cheney she had sacrificed a grandson to the war.

"I'd like a little peace," she pleaded with the vice president.

With an electorate divided by the Bush administration's actions in Iraq, Hobbs' remark to Cheney on Monday in an Ohio town of 15,000 reflected both the war's personal cost and the determination of many Americans like Hobbs to see through to a successful conclusion.

More than a thousand American soldiers have been killed in Iraq, but few families have been as deeply affected by it as the Hobbses.

Hobbs' son, her daughter-in-law and another grandson all have served in Iraq, and her son is headed back for another stint, probably around Thanksgiving. Her daughter-in-law just re-enlisted and would be heading back to Iraq too, but she's pregnant, and will go next year instead. Hobbs' other grandson, a Special Forces soldier, just returned and she hopes he's home for good," she said.

Her grandson Steven D.

Conover, 21, was among the U.S. soldiers killed last November when insurgents in Fallujah shot down the Chinook helicopter he was riding in.

Devastated by the loss, Hobbs said her health deteriorated to the point where she suffered kidney failure the month after her grandson's death, putting her in a wheelchair. Cheney spotted her in an audience of enthusiastic Bush-Cheney supporters and invited her to ask him a question.

Hobbs asked Cheney, "Is there anybody who knows a time limit" for pulling out of Iraq? "I have four over there. I had one killed... I'd like a little peace."

The vice president calmly replied: "I appreciate very much obviously the sacrifice they made. If you put an artificial date on it, what with the terrorists just waiting until that day arrives, Americans withdraw, and then they're instant themselves, that's not acceptable."

Far from being bitter about her loss and the uncertainty surrounding when the troops will come home, Hobbs recalled the words of her grandson a few days before he died, a memory to which she proudly clings.

"He said, 'Grandma, if anything is going to happen to any of us, make sure they continue with the war until it's finished,'" she said.

# The Scary Guy spreading positive energy

Tattooed, pierced motivational speaker brings message of compassion to bases in England

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Stripes

RAF MILDENHALL, England — The Scary Guy certainly is. At least, at first glance.

He has a face only a mother could love. And even then, the mother would have to be the Bride of Frankenstein.

Covered from head to toe with tattoos, he has more art on him than the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel. His hair is blue and his teeth are gold. He has more face piercings than an entire punk band.

But after a few minutes of delivering his motivational message of love, compassion and tolerance, The Scary Guy doesn't seem so scary. He becomes, almost, The Cuddly Guy.

"The elimination of hate, violence and prejudice worldwide. Give me a break. One guy can't do this job," he said to a room full of airmen at the First Term Airmen's Center on RAF Mildenhall. "I'm here today for one reason. I need your help."

For the next 90 minutes, The Scary Guy — that has been his legal name since 1998 — told how he was once filled with anger and hate. He was bursting at his image-laden seams with negative energy.

"For 43 years of my life — love? What a joke," he said. "I was a professional name-caller and hater. I could find a fault in you in 10 seconds."

But now, at age 50, The Scary Guy is a world-traveled motivational speaker, delivering his message to schools, corporations and military audiences.

"Churches are booking me. That's really weird, dude," he said.

The message he spreads like a itinerant preacher is a simple one, yet profound. He says a person's negative attitude is directed back at him or her. Conversely, someone who spreads positive energy gets positive vibes in return.

"For four years, I haven't said one negative word about another person on the planet," he said. "I haven't called anybody a name except their own."

His appearance heightens his message. He first got a tattoo when he was 30, not stopping until his body was nearly covered with the inked images.

The result, he said, has been that people judge him by his looks, not by his character or what is in his heart. In other words, they treat him the way he treated people for so long.

"That's called payback," said the former tattoo artist.

It is a good lesson in the judgment of human beings, he said, to follow him through the base commissary and watch the reaction that trails in his wake.

The heart of his message is a challenge. He asks his listeners to spend the next seven days and seven nights saying not one negative word about anyone.

Put a stop to the gossip and the name-calling.

"It will be the most difficult seven days in your life, I guarantee it," he said.

The Scary Guy is sort of like television's Dr. Phil, only with a

lot more body art. His wife of nine years, Julie Kaufmann, who plays a 22-strung lap harp during his presentation, said afterward that her husband has no formal education in psychology or social sciences.

"He has always been perceptive about people," she said.

Living in Arizona, the couple is on the road most of the year to spread the message. He said he receives 4,000 letters each month similar to the one he read to the airmen from a young boy being bullied and teased at school.

His Web site — [www.scaryguy.com](http://www.scaryguy.com) — gets 6 million hits a month from 75 countries.

The airmen who heard The Scary Guy on Monday afternoon, the first day of a three-day stay at U.S. bases in England, came away with something to ponder.

"I think it's a great message," said Airman 1st Class James Cheney. "I'll be stuck on this for a while."

Airman 1st Class Jeremy Luehl said The Scary Guy's message is similar to the Buddhism he once studied.

"He reminded me to try," he said. "I've tried before, but I'd gotten lazy."

The Scary Guy makes no guarantees that it will be easy. There will be slip-ups and backsliding.

But, he said, the reward is worth the effort.

"I can't tell you when your paydays are going to come, but they will come," he said. "You will get something back."

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RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

The Scary Guy is a motivational speaker spreading a message of love and compassion. He says he had little of either in his life.

## John Deere, iRobot making a battlefield robot vehicle

BY MARK JEWELL

The Associated Press

BOSTON — In a trailblazing pair of robotics and tractor companies, iRobot and John Deere announced plans Monday to build a 9-foot semiautonomous battlefield vehicle.

Burlington, Mass.-based iRobot Corp. will adapt the artificial intelligence technology used in its Romba vacuums and portable PackBot military robots for a two-seat John Deere utility vehicle similar to ones the Pentagon already uses.

The Military Robotator, Gator, or R-Gator, will be the first of its kind to use off-the-shelf technology, making it easier and less expensive to produce than existing, custom-made vehicles, the companies said.

While the Pentagon is expected to be the first customer, the R-Gator's developers hope to eventually draw interest from the military for use in everything from responding to chemical spills to patrolling borders, said Helen Greiner, iRobot's chairwoman and co-founder.

"The military is a great early adopter," Greiner said in a

phone interview from Washington, where the companies announced their plans at a trade show for Army contractors.

Moline, Illinois-based Deere & Co. and iRobot plan to begin pilot production of the two-wheeled R-Gator by the middle of next year at a production cost of about \$250,000 each, Greiner said. Full production is to begin in 2006.

The vehicle, five feet wide, has three basic modes: autonomous, remote control or manually driven by onboard human operators.

The vehicle will be able to relay real-time video, audio and sensor readings from the field. Such capabilities could allow for unmanned perimeter patrols of a military installation, or for reconnaissance or carrying supplies such as ammunition, the companies said.

The vehicle is based on John Deere's M-Gator, which U.S. forces have used extensively in Afghanistan and Iraq. iRobot's PackBots have been used in thousands of missions in those two countries to disarm roadside bombs and search caves and buildings.

## Widows, parents of Marines killed in Osprey test flights plan memorial

The Associated Press

QUANTICO, Va. — The widows and parents of eight Marines killed during two test flights of V-22 Osprey military aircraft in 2000 want to build a memorial to the men.

They hope to erect the monument at Quantico Marine Corps Base in 2006, the same year the Marine Corps hopes to make the tilt-rotor aircraft operational. The Osprey can lift and hover like a helicopter and fly like a plane.

The Osprey is slated to begin operational evaluations in January and be fully operational in summer 2006, said Capt. Jerome Bry-

ant, a Marine Corps spokesman.

The aircraft was just days from approval for full-scale production when a Dec. 11, 2000, crash in North Carolina killed four men. It was the second of two fatal crashes that year and brought a temporary halt to the program.

The widows and parents of the pilots and crew killed in both the April 8 crash in Arizona and the December crash have stayed in touch. In October 2002, they held a formal reunion at Quantico, where the Osprey crews were based, and after that started discussing memorial plans.

"It was just something that we

thought needed to be done," said Ruth Sweeney of Lanexa, the mother of Lt. Col. Keith Sweeney, one of the Marines who died. "They were the pioneers of it."

The proposed memorial hasn't been approved, but is working its way through military channels, Maj. Nat Fahy, a spokesman at Marine headquarters, said Friday.

Lt. Col. John Brown, Maj. Brooks Gruber, Staff Sgt. William Nelson and Cpl. Kelly Keith, were killed in the first crash, along with 15 California-based Marines. Sweeney, Lt. Col. Michael Murphy, Staff Sgt. Avelly Runnels and Sgt. Jason Buick were killed in the December crash.

## Former U.S. base in Panama reopened by U.N.

The Associated Press

PANAMA CITY, Panama — A former U.S. military base near the Panama Canal officially reopened Monday as U.N. headquarters in this country.

"Guns have given way to sources of knowledge," said President Martin Torrijos, who oversaw a massive ceremony marking the

opening at the former Fort Clayton.

Located at the Pacific opening of the canal, the base opened in 1962 as a testing center. It eventually came to house among the largest contingents of U.S. military and civilian personnel in Latin America.

Fort Clayton was closed along

with other U.S. military and civilian installations when the United States handed over control of the canal to the Panamanian government in December 1999.

Torrijos said the opening of U.N. offices where the military used to operate had "a special symbolism in the history of Panama."

## IN THE WORLD

## Officials: Karzai clear winner in Afghan vote

BY STEPHEN GRAHAM  
The Associated Press

KABUL, Afghanistan — Counting in Afghanistan's presidential election concluded Tuesday, with U.S.-backed interim leader Hamid Karzai the clear winner even though some ballot boxes were "obviously stuffed," election officials said.

Investigators were still examining about 100 ballot boxes to clear up lingering fraud allegations, but the election's chief technical officer said the count was effectively "over and done."

"It's just these last drabs and drabs to be approved," David Avery said. "It's really nothing that can affect the outcome."

Election officials have said they will not announce the official results of the Oct. 9 vote until investigations into irregularities alleged by Karzai's main rivals

have been concluded. That could be this weekend.

The winner will be inaugurated in about a month.

Final results were not posted on the election Web site, either. But in a tally based on 98.4 percent of total votes cast, the U.S.-backed Karzai had 55.5 percent, which was 39 percentage points ahead of his closest challenger, former Education Minister Yunus Qanooni.

"If the fraud was not so serious, we would accept that Karzai has won," said Qanooni's running mate, Taj Mohammed Wardak.

Karzai had to receive more than 50 percent of the votes cast to avoid a runoff and secure a five-year term. Karzai has been the interim leader since the fall of the Taliban in late 2001 after a U.S. invasion.

Karzai has racked up more

than 90 percent support in many parts of the south and east, which is dominated by his fellow Pashtun tribesmen, and leads in all major cities.

But rivals have eclipsed him across much of the north and center, the heartlands of Afghanistan's ethnic minorities, and charge that Karzai is ahead only through cheating.

Investigators had held back hundreds of boxes and say they have clear evidence of ballot-stuffing in some cases, though not on a scale that could overturn Karzai's majority.

"Some boxes were so obviously stuffed that we don't believe they were legitimately cast votes," said Ray Kennedy, deputy chairman of the joint U.N.-Afghan electoral commission.

That was an indication the commission will acknowledge irregularities — the key condition set by Qanooni for conceding defeat.



A U.N. worker reads the latest results of votes at a counting center in Kabul, Afghanistan, on Monday. Hamid Karzai was assured Monday to become the country's first democratically chosen president, officials said.

## Guardian apologizes for Bush remarks

The Associated Press

LONDON — A British newspaper apologized Monday for a weekend article in which a writer appeared to call for the assassination of President Bush.

In a regular column in The Guardian newspaper's Saturday TV listings magazine, Charlie Brooker described Bush in scathing terms, and concluded: "John Wilkes Booth, Lee Harvey Oswald, John Hinckley Jr., where are you now that we need you?"

Booth assassinated President Lincoln, Oswald killed President Kennedy and Hinckley wounded President Reagan.

The Guardian's apology described Brooker's comments as "hipping and tasteless" but said they were "intended as an ironic joke, not as a call to action — an intention he believed regular readers of his humorous column would understand."

It was the second time this month the newspaper was embroiled in a trans-Atlantic political controversy. Previously, it invited readers to write letters to unfiliated voters in Clark County, Ohio, a swing state, about the importance of the Nov. 2 election.

The newspaper's Web site said letter-writers were free to support either Bush or John Kerry but noted that a Guardian poll showed 47 percent of Britons backed Kerry and 16 percent supported Bush.

The newspaper was overwhelmed by responses to their hostile — and the campaign after their Web site was broken into by hackers.



Surrounded by bodyguards, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon arrives for a special session of Israel's parliament in Jerusalem on Tuesday. After a two-day debate, the parliament is expected to approve Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

## Sharon's Gaza plan likely to be approved

BY GAVIN RABINOWITZ  
The Associated Press

JERUSALEM — A stormy two-day debate in the Israeli parliament wound down Tuesday, ahead of a historic vote on Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan to withdraw from the Gaza Strip and parts of the West Bank.

Approval was expected, and would mark the first time the Knesset agrees to the uprooting of Jewish settlements in lands claimed by the Palestinians for a state.

Sharon entered parliament on Tuesday afternoon, surrounded by 16 bodyguards, an unprecedented number. Outside, police cordoned off the building, restricting entry, as thousands of settlers gathered in a nearby park to protest the plan. Protection for Sharon has been beefed up in recent weeks amid growing concern he could be attacked by right-wing extremists.

The withdrawal plan has bitterly divided the nation, and solidified Sharon's transformation from long-time patron of the Jewish settlers to their No. 1 nemesis.

Tuesday's vote is the climax of a monthlong confrontation over Sharon's "unilateral disengagement" plan, which has torn apart

the ruling Likud Party and weakened his coalition government.

The vote also came on the nine-year anniversary, according to the Jewish calendar, of the assassination of former Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin by an extremist Jew opposed to his peace efforts.

Sharon opened the parliament debate Monday, defending his plan as the only way to secure Israel's future. "This is a fateful moment for Israel," he declared in a speech that was repeatedly interrupted by hecklers.

Sharon told lawmakers that supporting the withdrawal, which will uproot 8,800 settlers from the Gaza Strip and four West Bank settlements, was the most difficult decision of his long career.

However, he said Israel does not want to rule over millions of Palestinians and suggested the settlers were unreasonable in their opposition. Sharon even made some conciliatory remarks toward the Palestinians, expressing regret for the plight of refugees displaced by fighting with Israel.

"This is the way of war. However, war is not inevitable and predestined," he said. "Even today, we regret the loss of innocent lives in your midst. Our way is not one of intentional killing."

## Arafat breaks Ramadan fast for health reasons

The Associated Press

RAMALLAH, West Bank — A weakened Yasser Arafat broke his Ramadan fast at the urging of his doctors Tuesday, and was undergoing more medical tests, aides said, as Israeli officials speculated he is suffering from a serious illness.

Karzai's aides have insisted that the 75-year-old Palestinian leader only has a bad case of the flu, and is recovering.

However, there is growing speculation that Arafat is suffering from more than a minor illness. Teams of Egyptian and Tunisian doctors have examined him in recent days. On Monday, he underwent an endoscopy, an exam of the digestive tract. And he has led Muslim evening prayers at his makeshift mosque in his compound, as he has done in the past during the fasting month of Ramadan.

Doctors have urged Arafat to rest and

break the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast, saying he needs liquids and must take his medication at regular intervals. For the first 11 days of Ramadan, Arafat refused, but on Tuesday broke the fast for the first time, said a confidant, Sakher Habashi, who visited the Palestinian leader.

Arafat was to undergo more testing Tuesday, including blood tests, an official close to the Palestinian leader said on condition of anonymity.



# U.S. urges N. Korea to resume nuke talks

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Secretary of State Colin Powell urged North Korea on Tuesday to rein in nuclear disarmament talks if it wants international aid.

South Korea called on Washington and other participants in six-nation talks to show more flexibility in resolving the nuclear standoff — comments that appeared to distance Seoul from U.S. proposals.

Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon urged "all participating countries in the six-nation talks to make more creative and realistic proposals to help bring North Korea to the talks as soon as possible."

Powell said Washington has no intention of changing its North Korea policy soon, but would work to resolve the nuclear dispute. "We agreed to continue devoting maximum efforts to achieving this goal through multilateral diplomacy and six-party talks," Powell said in a joint news conference with the South Korean foreign minister.

"Clearly, everybody wants to see the next round of six-party talks get started," Powell said, referring to the stalled talks among the United States, the two Koreas, China, Japan and Russia. "This is the time to move forward, to bring this matter to a conclusion."

He said the goal was to help the

## South Korea concludes holes in DMZ fence not likely made by enemy infiltrator from North

BY SANG-HUN CHOE

The Associated Press

SEOUL, South Korea — Mysterious holes found in a wire fence along the tense border with North Korea were most likely used not by communist infiltrators but by a South Korean defector to the North, South Korea's military said Tuesday.

The highly unusual discovery of the holes — found in a fence checked daily by troops for signs of infiltration — had triggered fears of North Korean commandos slipping through the border and led South Korea to tighten roadblocks and traffic checks north of Seoul.

The increased security along the roads between the tense front line and Seoul came as U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell was visiting South Korea to discuss ways to restart stalled talks on North Korea's nuclear weapons programs.

"After investigating the way the fence was cut and the foot prints in the scene, we have concluded that an unidentified person crossed into the north," said Brig. Gen. Hwang Joong-sun, an operational officer

at the South Korean military's Office of Joint Chiefs of Staff. "We have terminated our military operation against possible enemy infiltration," he added.

Given the crude job of cutting the fence, Hwang said, South Korea believed that the person was a South Korean civilian, not a North Korean agent returning home after a mission in the South.

Earlier Tuesday, South Korea said its nighttime border guards found a hole in the wire fence that forms the southern boundary of the 2.5-mile wide Demilitarized Zone that separates the two Koreas.

The 16-inch by 12-inch hole, which was cut through two layers of wire fence yards apart, was discovered early Tuesday near Yeoncheon, a border town 40 miles north of Seoul.

The military later reported another hole in a separate wire fence 0.7 mile inside the buffer zone.

South Korea had imposed "Jindogyo-1" around Yeoncheon, the highest level of vigilance the military can issue before an actual sighting of a communist infiltrator. On the roads between Yeoncheon and Seoul, soldiers and armored vehicles joined police at check points.

people of impoverished North Korea have a better life, in part by providing more food aid.

"We don't intend to attack North Korea, we don't have any hostile intent notwithstanding their claims," he said. "It is this nuclear issue that is keeping the international community from assisting North Korea."

U.S. officials believe North Korea is biding its time on six-party talks, sensing that Democratic candidate John Kerry might win the election and be easier to deal with than Bush.

Powell, who was in Seoul following visits this week to Japan and China, also met Tuesday with South Korean President Roh

Moo-hyun and South Korea's unification minister.

Powell predicted that North Korea will return to the talks after next week's U.S. election, South Korean officials said.

Three rounds of six-party talks, held in Beijing, have yielded little progress. North Korea skipped a fourth round that was to have

taken place in September, and lashed out Tuesday at Washington.

"It is impossible to open the talks now that the U.S. is becoming evermore undisgusting in its hostile policy toward the [North]," said North Korea's official news agency, KCNA.

"The Bush administration is employing a policy of divide and mislead," the public opinion at home and abroad and garner support from more electors," it said.

North Korea reiterated that it would resign the six-nation talks only if Washington is ready to roll back its hostile policy, and offer a "reward" for freezing its nuclear development.

The United States is seeking the permanent denuclearization of North Korea and has said it will provide the communist government with economic incentives only after it offers a credible commitment to meet U.S. disarmament demands.

Powell rejected the North's demand that Washington change its proposals.

"We modified [our proposal] for the third round of six-party talks, showed flexibility and tried to accommodate the interests of other parties," he said. "The way to move forward is to have the next round of six-party talks, so that we can discuss that proposal and not have us negotiating with ourselves in a press conference."

## Vatican lays out views on social issues

The Associated Press

VATICAN CITY — A Vatican handbook has laid out Roman Catholic Church teaching questioning preventive war and denouncing the "horrendous crime" of abortion. But Vatican officials sidestepped questions on whether the war in Iraq was illegal or if Catholics can vote for candidates who back laws permitting abortion.

Vatican spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls quickly intervened at a news conference Monday when a top Vatican cardinal was asked if the faithful can cast ballots for a candidate who supports legalized abortion. "The Holy See never gets involved in electoral or political questions directly," he said.

U.S. Senator John Kerry, the Democratic presidential candidate, said Catholic voters said that while personally opposed to abortion, he upholds the right of women to have one.

Pope John Paul II has vigorously championed the Vatican's long-standing opposition to abortion, which was denounced as a "horrendous crime" in the Vatican document released Monday.

"Far from being a right, it is a social phenomenon."

Some U.S. churchmen have said Kerry should be denied the sacrament of Communion.



Noelia Garcia holds her son Ismael, 1, in her home in Havana, Cuba, while watching a special presentation of Cuban President Fidel Castro announcing Monday that U.S. dollars will no longer be accepted at stores or other businesses on the communist island.

AP

## Cuba to stop using U.S. dollar for transactions

BY ANITA SNOW

The Associated Press

HAVANA — Moving to wean its communist economic system from the U.S. currency, Cuba said dollars will no longer be accepted at businesses and stores, a dramatic change in how commercial transactions have been done here in more than a decade.

The resolution announced Monday by Cuba's Central Bank seemed aimed at finding new sources for foreign reserves and regain more control over its own economy as the U.S. government steps up efforts to prevent dollars from reaching the island as part of a strategy to undermine Fidel Castro's government.

Cuba's national currency, the peso, cannot be used with international partners.

"Beginning on November 8, the convertible peso will begin to circulate in substitution of the dollar throughout the national territory," Castro said in a written message read by his chief aide Carlos Valenciano. In his message, Castro asked Cubans to tell rela-

tives living abroad to send them money in other foreign currencies, such as euros, British sterling or Swiss francs.

Cubans and others on the island can still hold dollars in unlimited quantities and can change them into pesos before the new policy takes effect. But they will have to pay a 10 percent charge to exchange dollars at banks business between the two countries. Some estimates on annual remittances to Cuba are as high as \$1 billion.

"But going into the holidays, people in Miami and New Jersey won't want the holidays for their families on the island to be even more miserable," he said, predicting remittances from those major Cuban American communities would pick up again, despite the difficulty of sending them and the 10 percent charge.

## Nazi criminals sought

BERLIN — A Jewish group said Monday it expects to begin a program in January to track down the last surviving Nazi war criminals in Germany.

The Simon Wiesenthal Center said that "Operation Last Chance," which already has programs in several European countries, has been delayed several times in Germany but will now kick off there on Jan. 27, Holocaust Remembrance Day, said Efraim Zuroff, the director of the center's Jerusalem office.

The program currently pays up to who provide information leading to investigation, prosecution or punishment of Nazi-era war criminals. Zuroff said the center is covering paying more in Germany.

## 78 die in Thai arrests

PATTANI, Thailand — At least 78 people were suffocated or crushed to death after being arrested and packed into police trucks following a riot in southern Thailand, officials said Tuesday.

Dr. Phiphat Rojanasuman, a forensic expert who works for the Justice Ministry, said Tuesday that she and a team of doctors examining a list of 78 bodies at an army camp in Pattani province and found that most had perished from suffocation.

The dead were among some 1,300 people that military officials said had been arrested Monday morning in a riot in which about 2,000 Muslim youths demonstrated outside a police station, demanding the release of six detained men.

From The Associated Press

## IN THE STATES

## Rehnquist's illness makes Court an issue

BY ALLEN PUSEY

The Dallas Morning News

WASHINGTON — With barely a week to go before the presidential election, the U.S. Supreme Court announced Monday that Chief Justice William H. Rehnquist has been diagnosed with thyroid cancer.

The 80-year-old chief justice was admitted Friday to Bethesda Naval Medical Center near Washington where he underwent a tracheotomy and treatment, according to a brief statement issued by the court.

Although he is expected to be in his customary seat at center bench when the high court returns from a brief recess on Monday, the news has propelled the is-

ssues of age, health and the upcoming presidential election into an uncertain view of the future of the court.

"I think that it's unfortunate that a health problem should have to occur to make it so, but I think this is raising the salience of the court as an issue," said C. Boyden Gray, a former high-level legal adviser in two Republican administrations.

"It's not been on the front-burn-



Rehnquist

er. With issues like war, terrorism, and the economy it's hard to get it into the top five, I guess. But the future of the court should be up there with them," said Gray.

"The chief justice's health may have helped focus the issue, but the question is: how sharp is the focus?" said Dennis Hutchinson, a professor at the University of Chicago Law School. "I think it's something that just whiffs by Supreme Court justices, like all federal judges, are appointed for life. The only way a justice can be removed is by resignation or death or impeachment. Still, their durability as humans and viability as jurists have been an occasional issue in the sometimes-volatile 225-year history of the court.

Until Monday's revelation, the chief justice had done everything he could to discourage persistent speculation that he wanted to leave the court.

His staff has been hired through 2006. In his well-received histories of the court, he often observes the longevity of historically important justices — leaving unspoken the fact that he is currently the eighth-longest serving justice in history and rapidly moving up.

Still, at 80 questions of age and health have become more persistent. And despite the chief justice's efforts to discourage it, speculation about his departure from the court — along with others — has been persistent with each new term.

He is the fourth justice on the current court to be diagnosed with cancer. Justices John Paul Stevens (prostate), Ruth Bader Ginsburg (colon) and Sandra Day O'Connor (breast) have each had to undergo treatment for the disease.

Rehnquist is one of two now older than 80, one of eight above the retirement age of 65. Only one among his colleagues — Justice Clarence Thomas — was born after World War II.

"Chief Justice Rehnquist has had health problems in the past," said Robert C. Percival of the University of Maryland School of Law. "But I don't think that anyone questions his ability to think and participate fully in the court's business."

## Cingular purchase of AT&amp;T Wireless gets fed approval

BY JENNIFER C. KERR

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Federal Communications Commission gave its approval Tuesday to Cingular Wireless LLC's \$41 billion acquisition of AT&T Wireless Services Inc., completing the federal regulatory blessing necessary for creation of the country's largest cell phone company.

The move follows Monday's announcement that Justice Department antitrust regulators approved the deal. Both agencies attached conditions to ensure there is adequate competition in different markets.

"We believe our conditions, combined with the benefits to the consumer experience brought by Cingular's new scale and scope, will ensure the public interest is served by this transaction," said FCC Chairman Michael Powell.

The two Democrats on the five-member commission dissented in part to the merger, saying they were concerned the loss of AT&T Wireless could have a negative impact on the wireless market.

"In many major in-region markets, Cingular now will have almost half of the mobile wireless market share. And in allowing the acquisition of AT&T Wireless, we permanently remove an independent source of competition to Cingular, SBC and BellSouth," Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein said.

Cingular is a joint venture between BellSouth Corp. and SBC Communications Inc.

The merger would give Atlanta-based Cingular about 47.6 million subscribers. That would top Verizon Wireless, the current market leader with 40.4 million customers as of midyear, while paring the number of national cell phone providers to five.

Under the FCC plan, the companies will not be allowed to merge in 16 markets and must divest themselves of assets in six additional markets.

The 22 markets are in 15 states: Oklahoma, Texas, Kentucky, Arkansas, Connecticut, Mississippi, Missouri, Michigan, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Tennessee, Georgia, California, Nevada and North Carolina.

## Officials weighing new sanctions on Lebanon

WASHINGTON — With Syria defying international pressure to withdraw from Lebanon and with tensions over Iraq still high, the Bush administration is weighing new sanctions on some Lebanese officials.

Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, R-Fla., said she is confident the administration will support a request she made along with Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., to freeze the assets of Lebanese officials with close ties to Syria.

"I think that all signs point to the fact that the Bush administration is going to take these measures," said Ros-Lehtinen, chairwoman of the House International Relations Middle East subcommittee. "It's a matter of timing whether it will be now, whether it will be a little bit later."

Acting under legislation pushed by the two lawmakers, President Bush in May banned all American exports to Syria except food and medicine and barred Syrian planes from landing in the United States. The Bush administration considers Syria a sponsor of terrorism and has criticized its military presence in Lebanon and its failure to do more to secure its border with Iraq.

From The Associated Press



Treasure hunter and marine archaeologist Joel Ruth uses a metal detector to look for ancient coins unearthed by beach erosion caused by Hurricane Jeanne in Indianland, Florida.

## Hurricane unburies beach treasure

BY RICH MCKAY

The Orlando Sentinel

INDIANLAND, Fla. — It is the stuff of pirate legends, but do not waste your breath asking Joel Ruth on what stretch of Florida's Treasure Coast he found his hoard of Spanish pieces of eight — waiting to be scratched out of the sand with bare fingers and toes.

Treasure hunters guard their secrets.

Especially, if like Ruth, they have just found about 180 near-mint silver coins worth more than \$40,000.

To most Floridians, hurricane season is the time to board up windows and dread the worst. But to professional and amateur treasure seekers, it is the time to hit the beaches and hunt lost riches.

"It's why we're called the Treasure Coast," said Ruth, a bookish 52-year-old marine archaeologist with an African parrot named Euclid who has learned to squawk "Hi-o-eight."

It takes the big storms like Jeanne and Frances to rake several feet of sand off the beaches and dunes and expose gold, silver and gems sunk and scattered centuries ago.

But making a find takes more

than walking the beaches with a metal detector. What separates those who make a real find from the legions of beachcombers is knowledge and patience, said Sir Robert F. Marx.

Marx is an underwater archaeologist and marine historian who was knighted by both the Spanish and English crowns for his work, including about 800 popular and scientific articles and about 60 books.

His colleague Ruth, for instance, has been keeping his eye on a certain stretch of beach in Brevard County, Fla., for 20 years, checking it every so often as the years go by, Marx said. He and Ruth think the find is part of a sunken treasure fleet off Florida's Atlantic coast.

But it took Jeanne to bring a slice of the shoreline back to where it was in 1715, he said.

That is the year a famous Spanish treasure fleet of about a dozen ships sunk in a summer hurricane, bloated with treasure headed for Philip V of Spain, Marx said.

Captain-General Don Juan Esteban de Urbina, commander of the flotilla carrying gems, gold, silver and porcelain from China — hence the name Plate Fleet —

set sail in the late summer 289 years ago.

Under pressure from the king to bring treasure to boost a war-ravaged economy, Urbina set sail even though hurricane season had already started. Leading with the *Capitana*, the fleet hugged Florida's Atlantic coast, heading north in the hopes of catching the trade winds of the Gulf Stream. With no more warning than a morning of steel-gray skies, a tempest snapped the ships like matchsticks, a few survivors would later tell.

Nautical records of salvage attempts and previous finds pointed to the spot Ruth staked out to search. Others knew the spot and have made finds there, too.

The basic rules of treasure hunting on beaches include finding keepers, but do not dig into the dunes or in protected areas.

Because riches go to those who are there first, "You have to be Johnny on the spot," said Mitch King, vice president of the Treasure Coast Archaeological Society.

Hurricane Jeanne did more destruction than any storm has in years," King said. The last storm to yield finds like Ruth's happened on Thanksgiving about two decades ago, he added. Treasure hunters still whisper about it.

## Registration challenges

COLUMBUS, Ohio — State Republicans withdrew thousands of more than 35,000 challenges to new voter registrations because of errors in their filings apparently caused by a computer glitch.

Republicans filed the challenges Friday in 65 of Ohio's 88 counties, saying mail sent to the newly registered voters was returned as undeliverable.

Over the weekend, the party withdrew about 4,700 challenges in Hamilton County because the names and addresses on the GOP lists didn't match voter rolls, and Franklin County officials in Columbus accepted 2,371 challenges, rejecting half of about 4,200 filed.

Challenged voters will be notified by mail that they are entitled to attend a hearing with proof of their address.

## Michigan voting woes

DETROIT — With a little more than a week to go before Election Day, voters in Michigan who hoped to rely on provisional ballots were left in limbo by a court ruling.

A federal appeals court panel on Sunday put on hold a judge's order requiring some provisional ballots to be counted even if they are cast in the wrong precinct. It was the federal panel's second ruling in two days against Democrats seeking to ease voting restrictions.

Provisional ballots — required in all states for the first time this year — are used when voters say they are properly registered but their names are not on the registration rolls.

## Kerry thanks Poland

WARSAW, Poland — Democratic presidential candidate John Kerry thanked Poland in a newspaper interview published Monday for its military involvement in Iraq and promised Polish businesses a chance for lucrative reconstruction contracts there should he win Nov. 2 election.

The comments, published in the *Gazeta Wyborcza* daily, came after President Aleksander Kwasniewski criticized Kerry for allegedly playing down the Poles' contribution to the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq.

"I am grateful to Poland for standing by the Euro-American partnership these last few years and for its courageous contributions to Iraq," Kerry said in the interview, which was also carried by *Nowy Dziennik*, a Polish language paper published in the United States. "I will not forget that."

## Bush scoffs at rumor

WASHINGTON — President Bush and the vice president scoffed at the idea that aides could secretly feed him advice through a radio receiver hidden on his back.

"Please explain to me how it works so maybe if I were ever to debate again I could figure it out," Bush said Tuesday on ABC television's "Good Morning America."

After television cameras showed a box-shaped bulge on his back during the first presidential debate last month, the president wondered whether Bush had been wired to receive help with his responses from aides such as White House press secretary Scott McClellan, Dan Bartlett and senior adviser Karen Hughes.

From The Associated Press

# Candidates still trading attacks

## Kerry says president hides bad decisions; Bush asks Democrats to cross over

BY MARY DALRYMPLE  
AND CALVIN WOODWARD

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Democratic candidate John Kerry accused President Bush on Tuesday of hiding bad decisions and raised the specter of bad news still to be revealed. Bush invited Democrats to cross over to his campaign as it began its final week, arguing that their party was no longer led by men of strength and resolve.

Kerry said a stream of bad news coming out of Iraq showed the Bush administration glossing over the reality of the situation there.

"Mr. President, what else are you being silent about? What else are you keeping from the American people?" Kerry said in Green Bay.

While Kerry campaigned on the east side of Wisconsin, a state

Bush barely lost to Al Gore in 2000, the president sought votes from Democrats as well as Republicans on the west side of the state.

In Onalaska, Bush said Kerry had chosen a path of "weakness and inaction," putting himself "in opposition not just to me, but to the great tradition of the Democratic Party."

"The party of Franklin Roosevelt and Harry Truman and John Kennedy is rightly remembered for confidence and resolve in times of war and in hours of crisis. Senator Kerry has turned his back on 'pay any price' and 'bear any burden,'" Bush said.

The president also renewed his contention that Kerry would raise taxes in a way that would cripple small businesses "to pay for all the new spending he's proposed."

The Massachusetts senator pressed his case that Bush has bungled and misled on the Iraq

war and national security crises generally.

"When the president is faced with the consequences of his own bad decisions, he doesn't confront them, he tries to hide them," Kerry said. "The truth is, President Bush isn't leveling with the American people about what you know. He's going, or what he is doing to put Iraq on track."

And Kerry broadened the attack to declare, "Just as he has been warned about his mistakes in Iraq, George Bush has been warned time and time again about the vulnerability of our homeland security."

Kerry said he would spend an additional \$60 billion over 10 years on homeland security, using the money to screen cargo for nuclear materials at ports and borders, add border patrol agents and more.

Bush, who lost Wisconsin and its 10 electoral votes by only 5,708 ballots in 2000, was focusing his efforts on Democratic-leaning regions of the state.

Warning up for that task in his last stop Monday, in Davenport, Iowa, Bush ditched his single-focus, national security speech of earlier events in favor

of a broader pitch praising the traditions of the Democratic Party, a theme he returned to on Tuesday.

In a television interview Tuesday, Bush said he didn't oppose civil unions for same-sex couples even though the Republican Party platform opposes them. However, he supports banning gay marriage through a constitutional amendment.

"I don't think we should deny people rights to a civil union, a legal arrangement, if that's what a state chooses to do so," Bush said on "Good Morning America" on ABC. "I view the definition of marriage different from legal arrangements that enable people to have rights."

Bush and Kerry are competing head-on for a distinct set of battleground states — Pennsylvania, Ohio and Florida among them — but other states are getting a second look, too, because of signs of fluidity.

Polls found a tightening race in Arkansas, which Bush won in 2000 and the Democrats had not seen as a serious prospect this time. New Hampshire, narrowly won by Bush in 2000, seemed to be moving Kerry's way in the final stretch.

Calvin Woodward in Washington and Deb Riechmann in La Crosse, Wis., contributed to this article.

# Pol: Americans have doubts about election

BY WILL LESTER

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Memories of Florida's contested 2000 presidential election and a growing number of pre-election lawsuits are making Americans skeptical about a voting process they once took for granted.

Six in 10 of those surveyed in an Associated Press poll say it's likely there will not be a clear winner in the presidential race by Nov. 3 — the day after the election. About half say they fear the results will be challenged in court, according to the poll conducted for the AP by Ipsos Public Affairs.

Both Democrats and Republicans worry about the possibility of an unresolved election — though Democrats express more worries. About seven in 10 Democrats worry, 69 percent, say they think it's likely there won't be a clear winner by Election Day, while almost six in 10 Republican voters, 56 percent, say they feel that way.

With both political parties putting thousands of lawyers on call for Election Day, a majority of both Democrats and Republicans — just over half of each — expect the election results will be challenged in court.

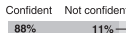
"I read the other day that there's going to be a perfect storm," Jack Martin, a businessman who lives near Salt Lake City, said of the growing number of lawsuits. "I think it's coming down to the courts. It worries me

AP POLL

## Voter confidence on election outcome

While most adults are confident that their vote for president will be properly counted, many also think it is likely that election results will be challenged in court, according to an AP poll.

**How confident are you that the votes in your state will be counted accurately?**



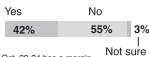
**How likely is it that on the day after the presidential election there will not be a clear winner?**



**How likely is it that the results of the presidential election will be challenged in court?**



**Thinking back to the 2000 presidential election, do you think we got a fair and accurate vote in Florida?**



NOTE: The poll of 1,000 adults conducted Oct. 22-24 has a margin of error of plus or minus 3.1 percentage points.

SOURCE: Ipsos-Public Affairs for AP

about the election system. I used to think every vote counts."

Both parties already have filed lawsuits over a variety of complaints — from how provisional ballots are counted to alleged fraud in voter registration. Judges in several states have issued disparate rulings on provisional ballots, which are required under law for voters who show up at the polls only to find their names are not on the voter rolls.

The 6th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Cincinnati is expected to hear arguments this week on the use of provisional ballots in Michigan. It is unclear whether

the court will rule before the election.

A majority say they are confident the vote count in their own state will be accurate. Fewer than half of Democrats say they are "very confident" their state's vote count will be accurate, while three-fourths of Republicans feel that way.

Lori McKay, 29, a Republican from St. Louis, says she thinks election officials will get things right this time.

"After the problems last time, I'm thinking they will do a better job," she said.

In the closing days of the cam-

paign, the national parties are keeping especially close tabs on Florida, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Iowa and New Mexico, all presidential battleground states where a challenge to a close race might be lodged Nov. 3.

Florida in 2000 turned into a political and legal ground zero over a Bush-Gore recount. After 36 days, the U.S. Supreme Court handed Bush a 537-vote victory in Florida and, thus, the presidency.

More than half in the poll, 54 percent, say they think the vote count in Florida was not fair and accurate, with Republicans overwhelmingly saying it was and Democrats overwhelmingly saying it was not. Independents say by a 2-to-1 margin that it was not fair.

Pamela Martin, a 52-year-old Democrat from Miami, says she was "not too confident" Nov. 2, 2004 will be any better than Florida than the last time around. Martin, who is black, says she heard plenty of stories about blacks who had trouble voting last time.

Worries about politics and legal challenges far outweigh worries about terrorist attacks intended to disrupt the elections, the poll found.

Just under one-third of those polled say they expect terrorists will attempt to disrupt elections.

Election officials in many states are taking steps to improve security at polling places but are looking for ways to heighten readiness without posting armed police.

AP Manager of News Surveys Trevor Tompson contributed to this report.





## OPINION

## As Putin turns back clock, West watches

BY JACKSON DIEHL

The Washington Post

IMAGINE that an imperial-minded president resolved to intervene aggressively in a strategic country with a fragile democracy to ensure the election of a favored candidate. To do so, he summoned his names and publicly embraced him; channeled hundreds of millions of dollars to his campaign; arranged for television stations broadcasting in the target country to openly boost the favorite and slander his opponent; opened hundreds of polling stations in his own country so that "expatriates" could vote; and, to top it off, scheduled a trip to the foreign capital three days before the election to stump in person.

Even Hamid Karzai or Ayad Allawi would be shamed by such a campaign, if it were launched by President Bush. What's more, the rest of the world would loudly condemn American interventionism. Yet Viktor Yanukovich, prime minister and presidential candidate of Ukraine, has humbly welcomed all this and more from Russian President Vladimir Putin — and Western governments have responded with a studied silence.

What's strange about this is that Ukraine's outgoing president, Leonid Kuchma, was probably right when he recently boasted that the election of his replacement on Oct. 31 would rank second only to Iraq's upcoming vote in geopolitical importance. The contest between Yanukovich and challenger Viktor Yushchenko likely will determine whether a European country the size of France, with 50 million citizens, remains an imperial democracy or slides toward authoritarian rule. And it may well resolve whether 2004, like 1947-48, is remembered as a year when the Moscow-orchestrated mix of rigged elections and dirty tricks turned

several Eastern European countries into satelites.

Sound exaggerated? Consider what has been happening in Belarus and Ukraine, which lie between Russia and the expanded European Union and NATO.

Last week Belarus held a referendum on making strongman Alexander Lukashenko, who already has agreed to reunite his country with Russia, the equivalent of president-for-life. An exit poll conducted by the Gallup Organization showed that the proposition failed. But when Belarusian authorities announced it had passed with 77 percent of the vote, Russia quickly pronounced the vote free and fair.

In Kiev, meanwhile, Yanukovich was pronouncing himself touched by the news that Putin would travel to Kiev this week to appear with him at a parade celebrating the city's capture by Soviet troops 60 years ago. "I will forever be grateful," said the burly prime minister, who was publicly kissed by Putin at his home in Moscow this month.

He should be. According to opposition sources, Russia has supplied half of the \$600 million that Yanukovich is spending on the campaign — including a \$200 million payment from the Kremlin-controlled energy giant Gazprom. Russian state television, which is used by most Ukrainians, has campaigned unrelentingly for Yanukovich.

Pro-Yanukovich billboards have appeared across Moscow, and expatriate Ukrainians will have the chance to vote at some 400 polling places in Russia. Russian political advisers have arrived in Kiev to conduct on-the-spot spin. Russian pop singers are touring the country and boosting Yanukovich at concerts.

In return, Yanukovich promised Putin at their last meeting that he would end Ukraine's policy of seeking membership in NATO, promote an open border and dual citi-



zenship for Russians and Ukrainians, make Russian the country's second official language, and subordinate Ukraine's bid for membership in the World Trade Organization to the requirements of forming the "single economic space," the Putin initiative to create a new union with Ukraine, Belarus and Kazakhstan.

Yanukovich would also entrench Putin's brand of authoritarian politics in his country. Already Ukrainian police, like their Russian counterparts, are delivering orchestrated and one-sided support to Yanukovich, while many opposition media outlets have been closed down.

Yushchenko's rallies have frequently been disrupted by thugs, and the candidate himself felt mysteriously and gravely ill last month — the result, he says, of a poisoning meant to eliminate him.

Despite all this, Yushchenko continues to hold a single-digit lead in the polls. That's because the former banker and prime minister is responsible for many of the free-market reforms that have allowed the Ukrainian economy to flourish, and because he promises that he will continue to lead an independent and democratic country toward partnership with the West.

The Bush administration and other Western governments hope for his success but privately expect that Yanukovich will win the election in a mid-November runoff. Putin, they know, will aid and abet that fraud — and then set about integrating Ukraine into his authoritarian bloc. No one has challenged the Russian president on his aggressive imperialism — which probably means that it will grow.

Jackson Diehl is a deputy editorial page editor for The Post.

## Electoral antique leads to incomplete roadshow

Los Angeles Times

LAST November 2, the electoral-vote tallies mount on TVs across the land. It's very close. Who's to become the 44th president? Suddenly, just in: Colorado voters approve Amendment 36! Wait! But wait! This referendum divvies that state's nine electoral votes proportionately, not winner-take-all.

And it would take effect that night.

If Amendment 36 passes and the election comes down to the next set of electoral votes, the nation could again be president-shopping until Christmas. But remove the immediate pain from the idea itself, and the rightness is clear. This is a nation still moving toward a union more of people than of states. Colorado gives new breath to an idea that is irrefutably democratic.

A great attraction of American democracy, funny hats aside, is its dynamism, the ability, as dynamic English usage puts it, morph. The Electoral College, the arcane institution that turns the national presidential selection process into winner-take-all state elections, is ripe for morphing.

"Electoral College" is one of those history lessons that doesn't stick anymore. It morphs in indirect presidential elections mean nothing in a full voting democracy. Every four years, we hear the numbers: 539 total, 270 needed to win. Maps are colored in red and blue. But that's not all. The practical result of winner-take-all has been to cut from the campaign process any state not in play. No point for Sen. John Kerry to invest precious time learning Republican is-

ues in Montana or enlarging a double-digit lead in California. Same for President Bush in solidly Democratic New York or GOP Virginia. All ballots for each state's loser are, in effect, discarded.

Getting rid of the Electoral College would require amending the constitution. But electoral-vote allocation is left to states, so there's no cumbersome amendment process to slow that more-modest reform by legislatures or voter petitions. Although anyone hoping for a smooth election wishes Colorado's measure would not be effective immediately if it passes, Maine and Nebraska already do it, and the nation still stands.

Political scientists have written books on

the million possible permutations. If California alone went proportional, how could a Democratic president be elected? Some things would be more certain.

With the United States navigating an era of tight political divisions, proportional electoral voting virtually precludes one candidate winning the popular vote while losing the electoral tally, as happened in 2000.

Reforming the Electoral College is like preventing forest fires, seeming urgent only when the flames (or elections) are near. Incentive for electoral change also has to come from challengers of entrenched power. That usually augurs ill for reform.

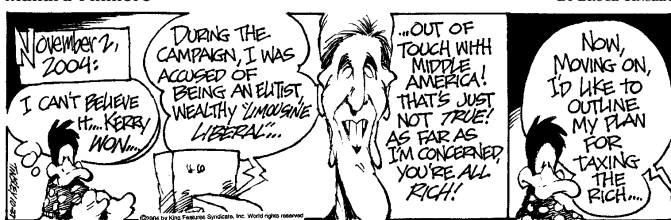
Colorado's Republican governor opposes Amendment 36, petitioned onto the ballot by an anti-Electoral College foundation. Why share nine likely Republican electoral votes, especially this year? California's strongly Democratic Legislature would balk even harder.

Unless, by some fluke, statesmanship broke out and greater good outweighed self-interest briefly.

Hope does reside in history's deliciously unpredictable ironies. To retain its power, the Federalist Party pushed the winner-take-all Electoral College in the late 1700s. Federalists got their way. But they never won nationally after 1796. A proportionate lesson there.

BY BRUCE TINSLEY

## Mallard Fillmore



Cartoon by Mike Luckovich. Syndicated by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World news network

# Stewart: Comedian or phenomenon?

## Fake journalist enjoys real political impact

By HOWARD KURTZ  
The Washington Post

Jon Stewart, fake journalist and proud of it, keeps insisting he's just a comedian.

Night after night, "The Daily Show" host lampoons President Bush as a tongue-tied bumbler, Donald Rumsfeld as a mad ringer who resembles "Pete the crazy guy outside my apartment," the war in Iraq as a giant "Mess O' Potamia" and the reporters who cover the presidential race as self-important clods.

Such sharp-edged skewering has turned the Comedy Central funnyman into a cultural phenomenon who, despite his protestations, seems to be having some undefined, irony-drenched influence on how the campaign is perceived. He's been on the cover of *Newsweek* and now graces the cover of *Rolling Stone*. His "America (The Book)" is the nation's top seller. He has analyzed the media. He's Koppel's guest, dissected the party conventions as Tom Brokaw's expert and ripped into his hosts on "Crossfire" for presiding over "theater" and "partisan hackery."

"There's a difference between making a point and having an agenda," Stewart says. "We don't have an agenda to change the political system. We have a more selfish agenda, to entertain ourselves. We feel frustration with the way politics are handled and the way politics are handled within the media."

Stewart, 41, has announced that he plans to vote for John Kerry, who made one of his few television talk show appearances in recent months on "The Daily Show." That might seem a little surprise to viewers who have watched Stewart relentlessly mock Bush while just poking gentle fun at Kerry's ponderous speaking style.

All of which means "the Jon Stewart backlash should start right about now," says Ana Marie Cox, also known as Web satirist Wonkette.

"Stewart has pretty much painted a target on his chest with his appearance on 'The Daily Show.' It's just a comedy show as a cop-out in a way. He's gotten so much power. So many people look to him that you can't really tell the kid in the black throwing punches or not."

But with a program that more than doubles the audience of "Hardball" with 1.2 million viewers, many of them in the 18- to 29 age bracket, Stewart's comedy or sometimes learn things from late-night comedy shows, a Pew Research Center survey found. Fifty percent of the "Daily Show" viewers say they are liberal and just 2 percent conservative. Only 17 percent of the program's audience is over 50.

Chairman Edwards disputes the notion that younger viewers turn to him for news, and the Annenberg Public



SNRN photo courtesy Comedy Central

### Jon Stewart of "The Daily Show."

Policy Center backs him up. "Daily Show" fans are more knowledgeable about current events than those of other comedy shows, the center found, rivaling newspaper readers and network news viewers.

"It's not fake news," Stewart says. "We are not newsmen, but it's jokes about real news. We don't make anything up, other than the fact we're not actually standing in Baghdad.... The appeal of doing the show is that it's cathartic."

In a year when Howard Stern, Michael Moore and Bruce Springsteen have used their entertainment platforms to rip the president, Stewart provides an ideal venue for politicians — especially Democrats — looking to demonstrate hipness. Kerry was happy to appear because Stewart "has got a big audience that is different from the audience that watches 'Meet the Press' or 'Nightline,'" says spokesman Joe Lockhart. "Jon Stewart has a huge following on college campuses," and the format is "not as confrontational" as on hard-news shows.

Little wonder, then, that John Edwards announced his candidacy on "The Daily Show." Or that Stewart's guests — when he's not chatting up Hollywood celebs about their new movies — have included Bill Clinton, Bob Dole, former counterterrorism chief Richard Clarke, Bush adviser Karen Hughes and Republican National Committee Chairman Ed Gillespie. Stewart can tell sex jokes one minute and have a seri-

ous foreign policy discussion with Newsweek's Fareed Zakaria the next.

"When I listen to Jon, he really is profoundly concerned and angry about real issues," Koppel says. "He is to television news what a really great editorial cartoonist is to a newspaper." But, Koppel says, "a satirist gets to poke and prod and make fun of other people, and when you say, 'What about you, dummy?' he says, 'I'm just a satirist.'" CNN anchor Wolf Blitzer, who has interviewed Stewart and appeared on "The Daily Show," is another fan. "There's no doubt he's an important fact of life in this current political environment," Blitzer says. "Off camera, he's a very politically aware news junkie."

Jon Stuart Leibowitz, who grew up in suburban New Jersey, is a physicist's son who found himself tending bar and doing puppet shows for schoolchildren after graduating from Virginia's College of William and Mary. He dropped his last name when he started doing stand-up at Manhattan comedy clubs, waiting tables to get by.

Stewart landed gigs on MTV and Comedy Central and in 1993 wound up a finalist to replace David Letterman on NBC's "Late Night," losing out to Conan O'Brien. After his syndicated "Jon Stewart Show" was canceled after a single season, he popped up on programs such as "The Nanny," and HBO's "Larry Sanders Show."

When Stewart succeeded Craig Kilborn on "The Daily Show" in

1999, he transformed it into what Newsweek calls "the coolest pit stop on television." His program won Emmys this year and last. He will be profiled Sunday on "60 Minutes."

"Even I'm sick of us," says Ben Karlin, the show's executive producer. But "the media beast must be fed," he added, amused that the show is being hyped by the "pack journalism" it regularly ridicules.

Stewart's humor is clearly fueled by anger. He's the guy at home "yelling at the TV," he says. Karlin says staffers come to morning meetings ticked off about various outrages and spend the day honing their insults into lighter material.

Stewart, who has called the Iraq war a mistake, is more likely than Jay Leno or David Letterman to ridicule Bush while going easy on Kerry, the Project for Excellence in Journalism found. "He's an outstanding comedian, but clearly he does comedy from

the Democratic left perspective," says Republican strategist Mike Murphy. "A lot of people who watch Stewart and howl at the jokes already have their minds made up in the presidential race."

The secret of Stewart's appeal is that he mocks the conventions of journalism, with self-aggrandizing correspondents

like Stephen Colbert and Rob Corddry standing in front of phony backdrops or making faces while interviewing unsuspecting citizens. In a sound-bite culture, Stewart uses video clips to highlight the absurdity of political spinners and media talking heads.

After playing a clip of Bush hitting Kerry on taxes by saying "The rich hire lawyers and accountants for a reason, to stick you with the tab," Stewart said, "Let me get this straight: Don't let the tax rich because they'll get out if it? So your rich friends are the hardworking people, because they're dumb asses and they'll never figure it out?"

"Politics is funny, hilarious and stupid," says Jeff Jarvis, who oversees CNN's online publications and maintains a blog called BuzzMachine.com. "But do you get that sense from networks and daily newspapers? Not really — we get pompous about it. Stewart brings the humor back to it. He calls politicians bozos. And then he goes on the next line on 'Crossfire' and called media guys bozos."

Stewart's Oct. 15 scolding of "Crossfire" co-hosts Tucker Carlson and Paul Begala — and his calling Carlson a four-letter name — was one of the weirdest, awkward, riveting television moments that drew more than 100,000 people downloaded from cnetnews.com in the following days. He said the pro-

gram is "hurting America" by encouraging participants to yell at each other.

Says Carlson: "Jon Stewart is a talented comedian, and all of a sudden he wants to be Kathleen Hall Jamieson, the University of Pennsylvania author and media analyst."

"There are things wrong with cable news shows — definitely. There are things wrong with 'Crossfire.' What bothered me was the pomposity and sanctimony, the notion that we're the problem. He doesn't understand the role of shows like ours in the media food chain. Not only was he not funny, he was not interesting. Banal."

Stewart is somewhat stung by the reaction: "Imagine being criticized for going on 'Crossfire' and expressing an opinion, and it wasn't an opinion that held to the left-right roles they're accustomed to scripting. I'm far more comfortable in my role as comedian. It was one moment of honest

frustration. I probably should have been more delicate."

But he is fed up with a process in which "people who are giving talking points come on these shows and are questioned by people on the other talking-pointed side." "Crossfire" is the crack cocaine, the purest distillation of it."

Koppel takes issue with Stewart's insistence that journalists should put forth the "truth." "Jon Stewart feels people like me in particular should be more opinionated, not less. He feels I have a responsibility to get in there and tell the public, 'Look, this is lying' — maybe not quite that blatantly."

Ana Marie Cox, known as Web satirist Wonkette, says "Jon Stewart is lying" — maybe not quite that blatantly.

"It's not that you don't live in interview you can say, 'That doesn't sound right,' but you don't automatically have all the facts at your disposal."

Stewart, who is especially popular with the journalists he ridicules, disappointed some of them by joking his way through much of the Kerry interview. "Is it true that every time I use ketchup, your wife gets a nickel?" he asked.

He offered this explanation to Fox's Bill O'Reilly: "I'm a very uncomfortable going more than a couple of minutes without a laugh because the same weakness that drove me into comedy also informs my humor."

In a final absurdity, an Internet petition is urging Stewart to run for president.

"It's not that young people don't like politics," says Cox, of Wonkette.com. "The way politics is talked about in the media is alienating. They're seeing Jon Stewart as a guy who is so much out of the darkness. Of course," she adds, "that's not his job."

*"It's not that young people don't like politics. The way politics is talked about in the media is alienating. They're seeing Jon Stewart as a kind of hero who will lead us out of the darkness. Of course, that's not his job."*

Ana Marie Cox  
known as Web satirist  
Wonkette.com



# BEST BUYS

**ON SALE October 28-November 10**



**\$1.59**

**Tostitos Party Bowls  
and Tostitos 10 oz.**



The information on this page is authorized for commissary shoppers only. These are extra low prices on selected items available only in your commissary for a limited time. Make sure to look at the top of the page for sale dates. Sometimes, because of product distribution or locations of stores, a few of the prices on this page may not be available at the advertised price. The commissary is not responsible for errors on this page or in any commercially funded advertising. The commissary is not required to offer the prices advertised here if the price shown is in error. This advertising is not sponsored or paid for by the Defense Commissary Agency or the Department of Defense.

## Organizations support military families with coupons

By nancy.onell@deca.mil

McClellan Calif. — Coupon clippers throughout the United States are sending record numbers of coupons to overseas commissaries in support of military families. And since coupons can be used overseas six months past their printed expiration date, coupled with low commissary prices, coupons can be a significant way to reduce the family food bill while serving in a foreign country.

"Almost everyday we receive packages of coupons from individuals and organizations that take the time to cut and mail coupons to our commissary," said Matthew Whittaker, store administrator at the Sagamihiara Commissary in Japan. "Most of the packages have a letter from the senders expressing their support to veterans and active-duty armed forces members."

"We receive thousands of coupons each month," said Mike Mertz, Sagamihiara Commissary store director. It is overwhelming to think of the number of people taking the time to cut and clip for military families."

Whittaker says that the Sagamihiara Commissary cashiers and ID checkers sort the coupons

and baggers give them to customers as they go through the checkout line.

Other commissaries, like the ones at Yokota and Misawa air bases, have a coupon exchange area at the entrance of the store where customers can take and leave coupons. And some stores provide the ultimate convenience when time allows, by attaching coupons to the product on the shelf.

Whittaker, Mertz, and commissary managers at other stores respond with a personal thank you letter to each person and group that sends in coupons. At the Sagamihiara commissary, they also post the names of the groups and individuals that send in coupons to the "Community News" section of their Web page.

"We think their efforts are significant," said Mertz, "and we want them to know they are appreciated." To view the Sagamihiara Commissary Community News page go to [www.commissaries.com](http://www.commissaries.com) and click on locations.

Commissary customers can also use Internet coupons at all commissaries as long as they have a bar code for scanning and the coupons do not offer free product.

## Tarragon Tomato Spinach Salad

### DRESSING

- 2 tablespoons tarragon vinegar
- 2 tablespoons oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 3/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/4 teaspoon dry mustard
- Dash pepper

### SALAD

- 1 1/2 cups cooked rice
- 10 oz. Pkg. frozen chopped spinach, thawed, squeezed to drain
- 1 cup chopped tomato
- 1/2 cup sliced green onions
- 1/2 cup sliced celery
- 2 tablespoons sunflower nuts

In small bowl combine dressing ingredients; mix well and set aside. In medium bowl, combine cooked rice, spinach, tomato, green onions, and celery; mix well. Pour dressing over rice mixture; toss well. Refrigerate at least 1 hour to blend flavors. Serve. Makes about six side dish servings or three main dish servings.



## Additional low-carb products added to many commissaries

An estimated 30-50 million people in the United States are currently living the low-carb lifestyle, vigilantly counting carbohydrate grams listed on the packages of everything they eat. DECA has responded to this phenomenon by increasing the selection of low-carb products in many stores. Available now in larger commissaries are special low-carb sections that feature reduced-carbohydrate sauces, pastas, baking mixes, breads, salad dressings, breakfast foods and energy bars.

## Immigration mess

**CO** DENVER — Federal officials are investigating the region's top immigration officer, who is allegedly involved with the estranged wife of a man under threat of deportation.

Mario Ortiz, head of immigration in Colorado, Wyoming and Utah, is under investigation, said Sharon Rumrney, spokeswoman for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service's Northwest region. She declined to elaborate.

But an attorney for Jon Vaupel, 42, an Australian citizen, said a private investigator has corroborated her client's claims that Vaupel's wife has a relationship with Ortiz. It was unclear what, if any, policy or law Ortiz would be violating with a relationship with the man's estranged wife.

## E-Z Pass on through

**VA** RICHMOND — Virginia is merging its SmartTag automated toll system with the E-Z Pass system used in many other East Coast states. The two systems will become compatible Wednesday, state transportation officials said. SmartTag and E-Z Pass give drivers with prepaid accounts transponders to attach to their cars so a toll can be automatically deducted without stopping.

## Skydiving nightmare

**IL** TAYLORVILLE — A parachute that had opened prematurely became tangled in the tail of the plane the skydiver was jumping from, killing the man and forcing everyone else aboard to jump before the aircraft crashed.

One jumper received minor injuries Sunday in the central Illinois accident, in which the Cessna 206 spiraled to the ground from 10,000 feet.

The accident near Taylorville, about 25 miles southeast of Springfield, involved six members of the Mid-America Sport Parachute Club, according to Taylorville fire Capt. Mike Crews.

The plane crashed a quarter of a mile west of Taylorville Municipal Airport. No one on the ground was hurt.

## Chasing bears

**MD** FROSTBURG — Even experienced hunters are feeling challenged by Maryland's first bear hunt in 51 years.

Baiting is prohibited, so instead of waiting near a pile of fatty doughnuts or lighting up a smoky, sweet-smelling lure, participants in the six-day hunt that starts Monday must go where the bears are.

"You more or less gotta run into 'em," said Clarence Dayhoff Sr., who has killed three bears in Canada and hunted them in Pennsylvania.

Dayhoff, 64, of Hagerstown, planned to hunt with his son on private land in Garrett County. They are among 381 participants in the tightly regulated hunt in the forested mountains of far western Maryland.

The hunt will end when 30 black bears have been culled from a resident population that has grown from a handful in the 1950s to an estimated 500. If fewer than 30 are killed, a second hunt will be held Dec. 6-11.



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

### Mines on the ballot

**MT** HELENA — Mining is such a major part of Montana's legacy that the words "gold and silver" in Spanish are still emblazoned on the state seal.

But mining's golden days are long gone. The industry has diminished over the years amid declining prices and tougher environmental rules, and now accounts for only about 3 percent of Montana's economy.

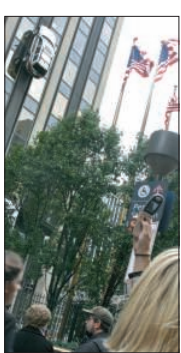
The mining industry hopes a Nov. 2 ballot measure will change that. Voters will decide whether to loosen environmental restrictions on how companies can mine for silver and gold — a proposal that supporters say will send a message to the mining industry that Montana is open for business again.

Critics contend the measure will leave the state vulnerable to catastrophic water pollution.

At issue is whether companies should be allowed to use cyanide in their mining operations. The process involves rinsing piles of crushed rock with cyanide, a potent chemical that percolates through the rock and draws out small deposits of gold or silver.

### Cool front off the lake

**NY** SYRACUSE — A group of community leaders are proposing a plan to cool the city's



### Amazing feat

A woman photographs an all-new Jeep Grand Cherokee as it moves up the side of a 30-story skyscraper in New York, to showcase its performance, style and off-road capability.

buildings with water pumped from the bottom of Lake Ontario. The water would be used to remove heat from air-conditioning systems. It would save millions of dollars in energy costs, officials said.

### Fast-food shootings

**WI** WEST MILWAUKEE — Two employees of an Arby's fast-food restaurant were found shot and killed in an apparent robbery, police said Monday.

Police Chief Eugene Oldenburg said the victims were discovered around 11:30 p.m. Sunday by an off-duty assistant manager who had passed by with a co-worker and thought the lighting appeared unusual.

Names of the victims, a 24-year-old woman and a 17-year-old boy, were not immediately released. Autopsies were planned.

"It appears to have been a robbery," Oldenburg said, but he did not disclose details.

### No challengers this time

**KY** LOUISVILLE — Republicans will not post challengers at voting sites in Jefferson County, the state's most populous county, on Election Day. County GOP chairman Jack Richardson IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site. Last year, Republican IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site. Last year, Republican IV said he made the decision primarily because the party has arranged to have two Republican election officers at nearly every voting site.

### Flu shot hold-up

**OH** COLUMBUS — Some low-income children may have to wait for their flu shot because of questions whether doctors will be reimbursed through Medicaid. The state health department recommends that doctors give the flu shots they've purchased from drug makers to privately insured patients who are considered high risk. Health officials say the state can't guarantee doctors reimbursement through Medicaid because of the national flu vaccine shortage.

### No gambling rush

**NV** RENO — In response to citizen opposition to a string of proposed neighborhood casinos, Reno and Washoe County officials decided to impose a six-month moratorium on hearing applications for unrestricted gambling licenses. Officials want to give their staffs time to develop a regional approach to the issue of neighborhood casinos.

### Trade in that boombox

**DC** WASHINGTON — The city's public works department staged a semiannual electronics recycling event in Rock Creek Park.

Residents of the district, northern Virginia and suburban Maryland brought obsolete computers, televisions and stereo equipment. The event was aimed at preventing the items from being discarded with regular solid waste and sent to landfills.



**Sand art** Karen Fralich, right, of Toronto, Canada, puts finishing touches to her sand sculpture, "Granny's Kids," during the 17th annual Sand Castle Days on South Padre Island, Texas.



**Relaxing retreat** Cole Anderson, 20, who spent a few years of his childhood in White Sulphur Springs, Mont., glides beneath the town's namesake waters after spending the night at the Spa Hotel while taking a break from his travels.



**Sweet treats** Benjamin Smith, 5, left, and his brother Gabriel, 9, work hard for their treats at Colby College's Children's Halloween Extravaganza in Waterville, Maine.





**Soggy pumpkins** Some of the participants in an Underwater Pumpkin Carving Contest show their creations 25 feet beneath the sea's surface in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary about eight miles off Key Largo, Fla. The wacky event was the brainchild of a local dive resort. Participants were judged on design originality, steadiness of carving hand and scuba skills.



**Childish fun** Jason Rolland, a sophomore from Grand Forks, N.D., pedals to the finish line as Sydnee Vran-na, a sophomore from Redding, Ca., assesses the bent front wheel of her trike during a race as part of homecoming events on the University of North Dakota campus in Grand Forks, N.D.



**Figuring it out**

Students from Meadowview Elementary School make their way through a corn maze in Abingdon, Va.



**Tough rides**

Bikers wait in slow-moving traffic at sunset in Daytona Beach, Fla., during Biketober-fest 2004.

## Preparing for the worst

**IL** WEST CHICAGO — Hundreds of emergency responders participated in a commuter train training drill. Volunteers pretended to be killed or wounded when a bomb exploded on a Metra train. Many emergency personnel were unaware that the explosion was staged until they reached the scene. The National Transportation and Safety Board will evaluate the drill.

## Lawyers get the boot

**CO** DENVER — Twelve district attorneys across the state will be out of a job after November because of term limits. Bob Grant, who has served three terms as Adams County DA, says the departures are bound to hurt the justice system. In January, the Colorado Supreme Court ruled district attorneys are subject to a 1994 constitutional amendment on term limits.

## Bad for business

**HI** HONOLULU — Despite a strong economy, Hawaii is still ranked among the worst states in which to do business.

The Tax Foundation, based in Washington, D.C., has ranked Hawaii last among the 50 states in its annual State Business Tax climate index. Hawaii is 49th in a separate report ranking the public policy climate for small business and entrepreneurship.

The two surveys ignore each state's economic performance.

But Hawaii economists and business owners say the strong economy should not be used as an excuse to relax efforts to improve the business climate.

## Hate law too broad

**GA** ATLANTA — The Georgia Supreme Court unanimously struck down the state's hate crimes law Monday, saying the measure is so broadly worded that it could even be used to prosecute a rabid sports fan for picking on somebody wearing a rival team's cap.

The 7-0 ruling came in the case of a white man and woman convicted of beating two black men in Atlanta.

It was the first application of the 2000 law, which called for up to five extra years in prison for crimes in which the victim is chosen because of "bias or prejudice." Forty-eight states have hate crimes laws, but Georgia's was the only one that did not specify which groups qualified for protection.

## Train emergency drill

**OH** WEST CHICAGO — Hundreds of emergency responders participated in a commuter train training drill. Volunteers pretended to be killed or wounded when a bomb exploded on a Metra train.

Many emergency personnel were unaware that the explosion was staged until they reached the scene.

The National Transportation and Safety Board will evaluate the drill.

## Her strikes a plea

**PA** PHILADELPHIA — New York real estate her Rob-

ert Durst pleaded guilty Monday to two federal gun charges stemming from his time on the lam in a Texas murder case.

Durst allegedly had two 38-caliber revolvers in his rental car when he was charged with shoplifting a sandwich at a grocery store near Bethlehem on Nov. 30, 2001. At the time, he was on the run in the Sept. 28, 2001, killing of Galveston, Texas, neighbor Morris Black.

Durst pleaded guilty to the interstate transportation of a firearm while a felon and while a fugitive.

The plea deal calls for Durst to be sentenced to nine months in prison and two years supervised release.

The judge didn't explicitly accept the sentence outlined in the deal, but he indicated he was likely to. If he seeks to alter the sentence at a sentencing hearing Nov. 29, Durst could withdraw the guilty plea.

## Class-size lawsuit

**TX** AUSTIN — Some teachers groups sued Monday to prohibit Texas Education Commissioner Shirley Neeley from allowing schools to exceed the 22-student class size limit for kindergarten through fourth grade.

The groups, including the Texas Federation of Teachers, are concerned that a recent letter written by Neeley to school district superintendents is an attempt to weaken a state law that limits class sizes to 22 students per teacher in those grades.

The law allows school boards to seek waivers to the 20-year-old law. But the decision to seek a waiver generally must be considered as an item on a school board agenda, giving the public an opportunity to offer input before the board takes a public vote.

## Nature preserved

**ID** MURPHY — Ranchers, local government leaders and environmentalists reached agreement Friday on preserving a half-million acres of wilderness in southwestern Idaho's lonely but spectacular high desert.

There were no dissents in the working group's adoption of the plan that has been under negotiation for the past three years. The Sierra Club and People for the Owyhees abstained.

But the deal could end years of conflict between resource users and land preservationists. U.S. Sen. Michael Crapo believes it can set a precedent for future resolution of public land management disputes not just in Idaho but across the country.

## Bad notes

**NV** LAS VEGAS — A deaf student is suing the Nevada university system, claiming assigned note-takers hurt her chance to get good grades. Lezlie Ann Butten seeks in the civil rights lawsuit filed in U.S. District Court in Las Vegas to remove from her transcripts low marks from the Community College of Southern Nevada and the University of Nevada, Las Vegas.

The case focuses on federal disability requirements that schools provide reasonable services to help students with disabilities receive the same education as other students.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

## FACES

## Farina back in the spotlight

Actor Dennis Farina's luck is beginning to turn around.

The former Chicago police officer hadn't appeared in any major projects for some time, and then was forced to withdraw from "Collateral," the thriller starring Tom Cruise, after a car accident.



Farina

"He was starting to doubt that there was going to be anything really worthwhile on the horizon," Chuck Adamson, a friend and retired Chicago police sergeant told The New York Times in Sunday editions.

Then, Farina was recruited to join the cast of "Law & Order," after longtime fixture Jerry Orbach announced he was leaving to join a spinoff.

Farina was already a fan of the show and liked the emphasis on the crime stories rather than the characters' personal lives. He also was not worried about competition from other crime shows like "CSI."

"I just think 'Law & Order' is the gold standard," he told The Times. "History is going to show that it's probably one of the best series of shows that has been on television."

## Muscle Beach founder turns 90

Jack LaLanne keeps going and going, and so do the parties celebrating his 90th birthday.

Nearly a month after the fitness guru turned 90, friends gathered to honor him near the Muscle Beach and his bodybuilding colleagues made famous in the 1940s.

"I'm so flattered and honored," LaLanne said before a luncheon began at the Hotel Casa Del Mar. "Who the heck am I? I'm just a guy trying to help people."

LaLanne later became a household name by hosting a television exercise show that ran from 1951-85, and by performing outrageous feats such as towing boats while swimming across Long Beach Harbor hand-cuffed.

LaLanne, who was dressed in a tight, pinstriped suit that revealed his lean, lithe physique, said he celebrated by traveling to France to visit his parents' birthplace and bought himself a Mercedes convertible.

"You've got to work at living because doing is easy," he said.

## Ford looking out for elk

Actor Harrison Ford is drawing the line — right at his property — against state efforts to thin the elk herd.

Elk living near Ford's ranch belong to the larger Fall Creek Herd, which numbers 5,100, exceeding the state's population objective of 4,400 animals.

Ford has created a private elk refuge of sorts with elk summering on his property in South Park.

"[Ford] doesn't want any hunting to take place on his property," said John Kelly, who manages the ranch for the actor.

"He told me that if I caught any one to turn them in."



Ford

## Royal teases his tongue at food festival

Even in the land of cheese and pasta, Prince Charles couldn't keep away from the traditional British specialties: bacon, pudding and orange marmalade.

At an international food fair in the northwest Italian city of Torino, the prince tasted local products, like Italian cheeses and olives, but focused on cuisine from back home, Italy's Apoc news agency reported.

The Salone del Gusto (Hall of Flavor) event was organized by the "Slow Food" movement, which seeks to preserve culinary traditions in the age of fast food. In a speech, Charles, a longtime advocate of organic farming, expressed his concerns about genetically modified foods.



Prince Charles

Stories and photos from wire services



Photographers zero in on the stars of the film "Alfie," Jude Law and girlfriend Sienna Miller, as they arrive for the film's Oct. 14 premiere in London. "Alfie" is one of six films Law will appear in over a four-month period.

## Law steals the spotlight

Active actor appears in six films over four months

BY ALONA WARTOFOSKY

The Washington Post

Jude Law currently stars as a dashing pilot in the stylized retro adventure "Sky Captain and the World of Tomorrow."

The British actor is also in David O. Russell's philosophical comedy "I (Heart) Huckabees."

Then there's "Alfie," opening Nov. 5, a remake of the 1966 Michael Caine classic.

In early December, Law will appear in "Closer," a film adaptation of Patrick Marber's dark play directed by Mike Nichols.

Before the year is out, Law will also serve as narrator of "Lemony Snicket's A Series of Unfortunate Events" and make a cameo in Martin Scorsese's "The Aviator," portraying Errol Flynn.

Over four months, audiences will encounter Law in six films. Law worries about overexposure.

"I can be incredibly optimistic or I can be incredibly cynical," he says. "The cynic in me says ... I spent two years making these. I chose them all because they were so different ... And now they're being lumped together and compared, and some would be overlooked because people would just be, 'Oh, [expletive] Jude Law again.'"

"But the optimist in me thinks, well ... at least it's all over by Christmas."

His ubiquity this fall re-emphasizes what last year's Oscar-nominated turn in "Cold Mountain" made clear: Law, 31, has arrived as a major star.

"Jude happens to be one of the most gifted actors working today," says "Sky Captain" director Kerry Conran. "With every character he plays, he becomes someone different ... You'll never see Jude the same way in any film he does ... That's not something that's easy to do, but he makes it seem effortless."

"Huckabees" director Russell says he cast Law as creepy corporate climber Brad Stand because the role allowed the actor to turn his status as a "golden icon" inside out. "He's more of an artist than he is a movie star," says Russell.

"Huckabees" director Russell says he cast Law as creepy corporate climber Brad Stand because the role allowed the actor to turn his status as a "golden icon" inside out. "He's more of an artist than he is a movie star," says Russell.

"I'm 'Huckabees,' Brad Stand repeatedly tells the same self-aggrandizing anecdote. Eventually he comes to understand how repulsive that can be, and when he's pressured to tell it one more time during an important meeting, he becomes so disgusted with himself that he vomits into his

hands. "That was an afterthought — what if he was so nauseated by telling the same story again and again that he threw up?" says Russell.

Russell says they filmed three takes, all of which he hopes to include on the film's DVD release. "Jude laughed hysterically and said, 'You will never use that. I'll give you \$100 if you ever use it.' He owes me \$100 now."

Taking on Alfie Elkins — the working-class lothario whose conscience starts to catch up with him — is a risk of sorts, partly because the role requires Alfie to speak directly to the camera, and because the role has long been associated with Caine.

"He tries to seduce you, the audience," says Law of the character, "and then eventually he can't help but show the cracks, really. Because he's invited you in, you see them as he sees them."

"I (Heart) Huckabees" presented its own difficulties, says Law — "Giving [the director] what he wanted. Opening up enough, feeling free enough, brave enough to dive in and bare your heart, your soul ... for me, playing a character who had to be believable but also utterly fake."

In Britain, Law is plagued by nosy reporters and paparazzi. First there was his 1997 marriage to actress Sadie Frost. Then there was their divorce, which involved tabloid tales of postnatal depression (hers), a suicide attempt (his) and an alleged affair with "Cold Mountain" love interest Nicole Kidman (his), as well as domestic disturbances requiring police intervention. There was a 2002 incident in which Law and Frost's toddler daughter — youngest of their three children together — ate part of an ecstasy tablet she found on the floor at a children's party. All of this led to a kind of aggressive bounding Law characterizes with one word: "Horrible."

This brings us to the Windshield Story. The climactic moment of "Alfie" occurs when he begins to realize how badly he has hurt people. Filled with anguish, he smashes his fist through his car's windshield.

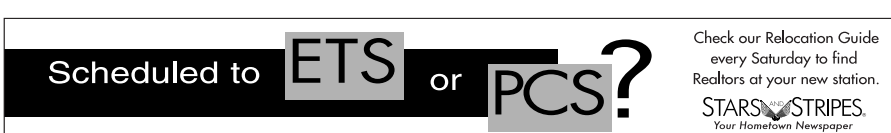
"That's not a special effect," says director Charles Shyer. "Jude really broke the window with his fist. The director had watched the media beset Law and his new girlfriend, actress Sienna Miller, who plays one of Alfie's conquests."

"I wanted him to have the emotion, and I just said to him, 'The windshield is the paparazzi,'" recalls Shyer. "He just hit it so [expletive] hard I thought he had broken his wrist. I was so scared. I said, what have I done?"

The Windshield Story has already appeared in articles, but Law has little patience for it. "Charles, of course he thought," Law adopts an American accent — "Trey, I said paparazzi, and he really hit it." The actor makes a decisive snort. "I let all hell break loose and I smashed the windshield because it was what was required."









# Horoscope

A lunar eclipse is featured during this full moon in Taurus. Taurus rules the appetite and luxury, and during this transit, you may feel insatiable — especially when it comes to expensive, quality indulgences.

The best way to keep yourself from going overboard is not to place your self in dangerous situations. **TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Oct. 27).** The answers are there for you this year. All you have to do is ask the right questions! Your focus on self-improvement pays off beautifully, and by the end of next month, you're filled with pride in your accomplishments. New people in your life energize your work situation. A financial breakthrough in February is well deserved.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19).** It will take guts to speak up to the person who has the power to help you. You're proposing a new standard, after all, instead of falling into the line that's already been established. But rewards go to the brave.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20).** Though you're gotten just about everything you asked for the last week, it very well may be that you're still not happy. It's time to raise the stakes again.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 21).** You dream about who the perfect person might be for you and what qualities that person may possess, but when it comes to real life, it's more about chemistry and compatible lifestyles than anything else. Have faith in your intuition.

**CANCER (June 22-July 22).** There are downsayers all around you, but don't believe a word of what they say, especially when the subject is the economy. Your qualifications make you perfect for a position that's just opening up.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22).** Your charisma makes you popular, and

you take the responsibility seriously. You've got a healing gift. Your special "medicine" is the optimistic force of your spirit.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22).** Some would say you're lucky, but you don't sit around wishing until one day — poof! You use cause and effect instead, adding A and B to get C.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23).** Your brainchild is growing up and starting to walk on its own. Help it out by finding more places where it will be useful, more people who need it and more opportunities to showcase it.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).** Suddenly, it's very important to get real with your relationships. Don't worry about the future, but center yourself and ask the hard questions — like what is it you were expecting of the relationship when you got in.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21).** You're dreaming big and can't be bothered with anything that distracts you from what you really want. Romantic complications are becoming less complicated due to your decisive attitude.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19).** Be careful whose heart you play with. A formerly harmless flirtation could turn into something more. You could easily get sucked into a love triangle. Maybe it's best to shift your attention from love to career.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).** Each person has a unique relationship with money. Some are spenders, some are savers, and you're an investor. You import some of your hard-earned cash into risky but scientific propositions and watch it double.

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).** You're being pulled in multiple directions. People think they know what's best for you, but they don't know you nearly as well as they think they do. You have to decide what would bring you the most enjoyment.

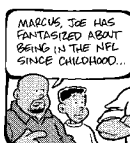
Joyce Jillson



Calvin and Hobbes



Jump Start



Zits



Cathy



Hi and Lois



Beetle Bailey



Red Rover



Better or Worse



## To our readers

For the past decade, this column has been written by Joyce Jillson and Holiday Mathis. Ms. Jillson passed away on Oct. 1. Because Ms. Jillson and Ms. Mathis wrote in advance, columns they prepared will run through Nov. 6. Beginning Nov. 7, the horoscopes will be re-named "Horoscopes by Holiday" and will be authored by Ms. Mathis.

## Peanuts



Fotrot



B.C.



Baby Blues



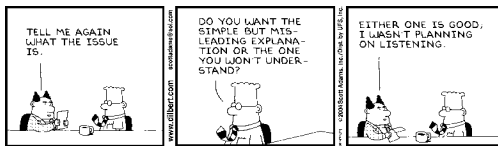
Spider Man



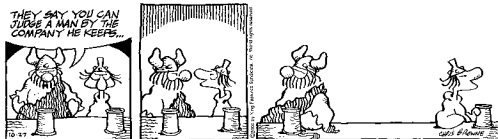
Blondie



Dilbert



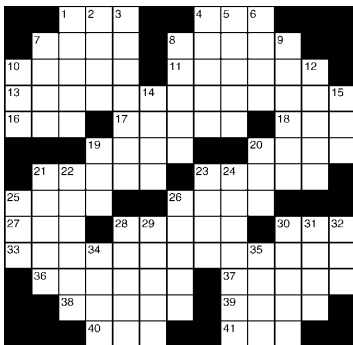
Hagar



Garfield



## Eugene Sheffer Crossword



## Across

- 1 "60 Minutes"  
home  
4 Hansom, e.g.  
7 Tend tears  
8 Gibbs or  
Maples  
10 Sound portion  
11 Colored ring  
13 Remark re  
battle  
16 Pub potation  
17 Uses the  
USPS  
18 "Star Wars"  
abbr.  
19 Noun  
classification  
(Abbr.)  
20 Manages,  
with "out"  
21 Exhausted  
23 Extensive  
25 Rodents do it  
26 Acute  
27 DDE  
opponent  
28 Indian, for  
one  
30 Snake eyes  
33 1975  
Pulitzer/Cosby  
movie  
36 Shuffle the  
poster  
37 Juicy tropical  
fruit  
38 "— Park"  
39 Ova  
40 Type  
squares  
41 Rotation  
duration

## Down

- 1 Frame-work  
2 Soft cheese  
3 He looks  
friendly, but  
his heart  
is cold!  
4 Yule melody  
5 Precincts  
6 Online diary  
7 Hamilton-Burr  
battle  
8 Legerdomain  
9 "The Last  
Frontier"  
10 "Eureka!"  
12 Lent a hand  
14 It's right  
on the  
map  
15 Serbian city  
19 Kitten's  
comment  
20 A billion  
years  
21 Villain's  
look  
22 Affixes  
wallpaper  
23 Tempo  
24 Changed  
the  
title  
25 Guy's  
companion  
26 Country  
singer  
Toby  
28 Loathing  
29 Expenses  
30 Piquant  
31 Perukes  
32 Lennon's  
lady  
34 — gin  
fizz  
35 Infatuated

## Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	E	O	W	A	B	C	S	A	V	E
U	L	N	A	P	E	A	A	G	E	D
S	L	E	D	H	A	R	D	C	O	R
H	A	R	D	H	I	T	O	R	G	A
L	I	D	J	O	E					
A	G	N	E	S	H	A	R	D	I	N
S	O	O	J	O	G	T	E	A		
H	A	R	D	T	O	P	P	O	S	E
C	R	E	D	O	H	A	R	D	H	A
H	A	R	D	S	H	I	P	I	O	W
O	G	R	E	A	D	O	T	B	A	R
U	S	S	R	M	E	N	Y	O	Y	O

10-27

## CRYPTOQUIP

U ' H A M N L L L U L R Y L  
T I D N M U L R T Y H D I W U L R  
E D V F W D N E F . U V D N M M F

WYAD U ZNL ZNVF UI YOO.  
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: If you're in the mall trying different perfumes, I'd call you a shopping scenter.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: L equals N

# Dribbling drives neighbors nuts

**Dear Abby:** My problem is my neighbor's home basketball court. The parents are oblivious to the noise and racket. My ears are constantly assaulted by the thumping sound and screaming of children that goes along with the game. It's impossible on most days and evenings to sit on my porch and read a book, or in my living room without closing the windows.

Zoning board members: How about outlawing basketball hoops in neighborhoods where there's less than 500 feet between houses? Give us a break.

As taxpayers, we're assessed to provide bigger and better playgrounds and school gyms. That's where basketball hoops belong. Driveways shouldn't supersede the local playground. Please, parents, unless you live on a lot that's an acre or larger, take down that horrid noisemaker and take the kids to the playground.

Dear Abby



Show some consideration for your neighbors.

— **Fractured Ardruum in the Sunbelt**

**Dear Fractured:** Whether or not the sound of children playing is an annoying racket depends on one's perspective. If you are a parent, the sound is music to the ears — and when those days are over, the happy sound will be missed. Sometimes being a good neighbor involves striking a compromise.

**Dear Abby:** A treasured friend of my mother's — a lady who knew me from birth (I am now 50) — passed away recently.

I was brought up to call her "Auntie." She was closer to me than some of my blood relatives. My children and I adored her. We called her long-distance, sent her flowers on special occasions, and saw her every time she came to town.

Finally it was necessary for

her to go to a nursing home. The last time we went to visit her, the nurses said, "Oh, didn't you know? She passed away a month ago!" Her only son lives far away. He never bothered to call and notify us.

Abby, won't you please remind your readers again to call dear friends about a death in the family? This is inexcusable. We are

— **Mourning in Tacoma, Wash.**

**Dear Mourning:** Your problem is more common than you give credit. Often when there's a death in the family, a close friend will assume the sad task of phoning the people in the deceased's address book to notify them. Obviously, this was not done on the occasion of Auntie's death — and your letter poignantly illustrates the pain that can be caused by the unfortunate oversight.

Please give Auntie's son the benefit of the doubt.

Letters for this column — with your address and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can email to Abby on the internet at: <http://www.uspress.com/dearabby>

Universal Press Syndicate

# Dad's disorder concerns daughter

**Dear Annie:** I'm 13, and my parents divorced when I was 6. My mom has primary custody, but I see my dad every week. Mom was the one who wanted the divorce, and I don't think Dad has fully recovered from it yet.

When I was younger, I was Daddy's little girl. Now I'm beginning to see why my mom divorced him. He's a major pack-rat, and he suffers from depression. I found his antidepressant pills in the bathroom when I was 11. I know he has not taken his medicine in at least two years, and his mood swings can be scary.

Recently, Dad yelled at me for a minor thing, but he also raised his arms in the air, and I was really afraid he might hit me. Later the same day, he was in a much better mood and really sorry about his actions. He has good days and bad, but the bad days seem to be getting more frequent.

I hope I'm not overreacting, but I'm wondering if I should ask Mom to talk to her lawyer about changing the custody set-up.

Annie's Mailbox



Please tell me what to do. I need to get away from him before I lose my mind.

— **Need Options in Oregon**

**Dear Need Options:** Don't worry about the custody agreement. You should discuss your father's depression with your mother and ask her to help. This burden should not be falling on your

young shoulders. If Dad needs to be on medication and isn't taking it, your mother and his doctor should be aware of the situation.

**Dear Annie:** My boyfriend of two years has a cat, "Ozy," that he absolutely adores. The problem is that I am highly allergic to animal dander. I get headaches, my eyes water and itch, and my nose runs. I can tolerate it if I take allergy pills and stay away from the parts of the house where the cat is allowed.

Although I have told my boyfriend about my allergy, he still

allows the cat to sleep in his bed, even when I am there. He particularly likes to place the cat on my lap or give him to me to hold.

I love this guy and don't want to give him ultimatums, but something has to be done.

— **Sneezing in Phoenix**

**Dear Phoenix:** We're going to assume your boyfriend is under the mistaken impression that if you are exposed to the cat on a regular basis, you will get over your allergic reaction. It doesn't quite work that way. Although allergy shots might desensitize you to a certain degree, it is not possible to eliminate the reaction altogether. You should explain this to him, and if possible, have your doctor present him with some literature on the subject. Of course, if your boyfriend simply enjoys subjecting you to this particular torment, you might want to scratch him off your list.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the Ann Landers column. Please e-mail your questions to [annie@familymail.com](mailto:annie@familymail.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

# JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Arigoni

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

**NISHY**

**RETEB**

**NIANIZ**

**TAPECK**

**Print answer here:**

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Universal Press Syndicate



THE LAST THING A TEENAGER WANTS TO BE.

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GIANT CHOKE DITHER JUMPER Answer: What the tired laborer said when he drilled into the thick wall — I'M "THROUGH"

# Family Circus



10-27

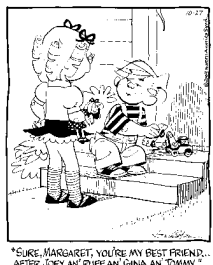
Circle 21, please. No. 10-27 by King Features Synd. www.familycircus.com

"Daddy, your cell phone doesn't play games, or take pictures, or anything!"

# GRAFFITI



Domini's Menace



© Gary Larson

The Far Side



Non Sequitur



\*SURE, MARGARET, YOU'RE MY BEST FRIEND... AFTER JOEY AN' RUFF AN' GINA AN' TOMMY.

"Well, every dog has his day."

## Pre cancer

### MIS playoffs

**Conference Semifinals**  
(Two-leg Aggregate Score Series)  
**Eastern Conference**  
**Columbus vs. New England**  
**Saturday, Oct. 23**  
New England 1, Columbus 0, New England leads series 1-0  
**Sunday, Oct. 31**  
New England at Columbus  
**D.C. United vs. MetroStars**  
**Saturday, Oct. 23**  
D.C. United 2, MetroStars 0, D.C. United leads series 2-0  
**Saturday, Oct. 30**  
MetroStars at D.C. United  
**Western Conference**  
**San Jose vs. Los Angeles**

**Sunday, Oct. 24**  
San Jose 2, Kansas City 0, San Jose leads series 2-0

**Saturday, Oct. 30**  
San Jose at Kansas City

**Los Angeles vs. Colorado**  
**Friday, Oct. 22**  
Colorado 1, Los Angeles 0, Colorado leads series 1-0

**Deals**

**Monday's transactions**

**American League**  
**DETROIT TIGERS**—Sent LHP Rob Henkel out right to Toledo of the IL.

**NEW YORK METS**—Activated RHP Victor Zambrano and RHP Mike Dejean from the 15-day DL. Announced LHP Vic Darenbourg and LF Wilson Delgado and OF Gerald Williams elected free agency.

**PHILADELPHIA PHILLIES**—Signed INF Tomas Perez to a two-year contract.

**PACIFIC COAST LEAGUE**

**OKLAHOMA REDHAWKS**—Named Paul Carey coach.

**TEXAS LEAGUE**

**California League**

**BAKERSFIELD BLAZE**—Named Arnie Beyer as manager, Dave Chavarria pitching coach and Mike Boulanger coach.

**Can-Am League**

**NEW JERSEY JACKALS**—Signed RHP Fabrizio Benitez, LHP Craig Breslow, LHP Evan Geisler and LHP Brad Whitworth.

**BASKETBALL**

**National Basketball Association**

**BOSTON CELTICS**—Waived C Ernest Brown.

**CHARLOTTE BOBCATS**—Waived G Omar Cook.

**MIAMI HEAT**—Waived F Tang Hamilton.

**NEW YORK KNICKS**—Waived G Andre Bar  
ett and C Mengke Bateer.  
**PHILADELPHIA 76ERS**—Waived F Kirk Has  
on.

**AMERICAN Basketball Association**  
**LOS ANGELES STARS**—Signed **F** Cedric de la Torre.

**FOOTBALL**  
**National Football League**  
**ATLANTA FAHNS**—Waived **C** Tom Nichols. Signed **E** Eric Pruitt from the practice squad. Added **RB** Jason Wright to the practice squad.

**CHICAGO BEARS**—Claimed **T** John Owens from the practice squad. Waived **DE** Alvin Williams from Detroit. Waived **DE** Alvin Williams from Detroit.

**Arena Football League**  
**ORLANDO**—Signed **LB** Dennis Pittman. Signed **LB** Charles Hill. Signed **LB** Derrick Davis. Signed **LB** Dennis Pittman. Signed **LB** Charles Hill. Signed **LB** Derrick Davis. Signed **LB** Dennis Pittman. Signed **LB** Charles Hill. Signed **LB** Derrick Davis.

**HOCKEY**  
**USA Hockey**—Named Dave Fischer director of men's hockey.

**American Hockey League**  
**MIAMI**—Suspended forward **C** Brendan Smith for his actions in a Oct. 2 game against Lowell.

**PHILADELPHIA PHANTOMS**—Assigned Rick Deschenes to Trenton of the ECHL.

**CHS**—Suspended Tulsa D Scott Egnell was given games for his actions in an Oct. 22 game against Oklahoma State. Suspended 1W David Silverstone four games for his actions in a Nov. 19 game against Texas Tech.

**TU**—Tulsa D Ted Crowley indefinitely for his actions in a Nov. 19 game against Texas Tech.

**OKLAHOMA VALLEY KILLER BEES**—Waived Tulsa D Anthony Donohue.

**WICHITA THUNDER**—Waived C Josh Weir.

**ECHL**

**ECHL**—Suspended Oklahoma D Louis Massey two games for his actions in an Oct. 22 game against the Tulsa Oilers.

**ALABAMA ACES**—Signed C Scott Gomez; Toledo Storm—Promoted Greeg Bookout, director of marketing.

**A-SOCCER**

**VANCOUVER WHISTLER**—Announced the resignation of Tony Fonseca, coach.

**FLOIDA**—Fired Ron Zook, football coach effective at end of the season.

**FLORIDA STATE**—Announced the hiring of Mike Meyer, men's basketball coach, on a two-year contract extending through the 2010-11 season.

**SOUTHERN NAME**—Named Christine Smith as new information officer.

**WISCONSIN**—Announced men's junior baseball coach has taken an indefinite leave of absence.



# Spurrier believed to top Florida's list of candidates

By MARK LONG

The Associated Press

GAINEVILLE, Fla. — Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley should have an easier time with this coaching search.

Dorsey Brumley coach Mike Shanahan and Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops turned down the job in 2002, neither one wanting the dubious task of replacing Steve Spurrier.

It could be much different now. Football coach Ron Zook was fired Monday after two-plus years and a stack of embarrassments on and off the field, satisfying a growing groundswell for his ouster that began the day he replaced Spurrier.

Zook will finish the season while Foley and school president Bernie Machen search for a coach.

They might start with Spurrier, who resigned from the NFL's Washington Redskins after two last seasons.

"We will discuss this job with a number of coaches, and obviously if Coach Spurrier is interested, we will sit down with him," Foley said.

Spurrier, playing in a charity golf event near Orlando, Fla., avoided questions about his interest in returning to the Gators.

"I'll talk about that another time," he said. "I don't think there's anything that I can say that's really appropriate at this time."

Foley said he won't discuss the opening with employed coaches until after the season.

If Spurrier doesn't return, Stoops and Utah coach Urban Meyer might be possibilities. Stoops was Spurrier's defensive coordinator for three seasons at Florida (1996-98) before leaving for Norman.

"My job is at Oklahoma and I've always felt privileged to coach here," Stoops said. "That's where my full concentration and commitment are."

Machen hired Meyer at Utah following the 2002 season, and Meyer has the Utes poised for a Bowl Championship Series berth. "If my name is mentioned, it's been mentioned a million other times, too," Meyer said. "I have no comment."

Louisville coach Bobby Petrino also could be in the mix.

"You wish it wouldn't come up," Petrino said. "That way I'm going to handle it. I'm not going to address any speculation on any other jobs. I'm going to put all our focus and attention on Memphis and trying to win the conference championship."

Either of them would seemingly be more likely to take the job now, especially after Zook's tumultuous tenure.

The Gators are 20-13 under Zook with four games left. Zook's latest debacle, a 38-31 loss to Mississippi State, sealed his fate and brought jubilation among those in Gator Nation who turned [www.firezook.com](http://www.firezook.com) into their Internet home page.

Many of them saw it coming from the start, saying Zook was in over his head, had never been a head coach and wasn't composed enough to manage a game from the sideline. Almost all those concerns quickly became reality.

"When the situation starts going south, it's hard sometimes to push it back up," Foley said. "I think the situation got out of control, even for him."

Just weeks before the Mississippi State loss, reports surfaced that



AP

**Ron Zook, who will finish the season as Florida's football coach, has a 20-13 record as the head coach of the Gators.**

Zook had a heated confrontation with fraternity members on campus last month. Zook initially downplayed his role, saying he went there to defuse the situation, but Foley later acknowledged that Zook yelled at students and called the behavior "unacceptable."

Foley said the same thought about the mounting losses — many of them late collapses.

The Gators blew fourth-quarter leads against Tennessee and LSU this season, and did the same against Miami, Mississippi and Florida State last year. There also were two near meltdowns against Arkansas.

There were other debacles, too, including consecutive Outback Bowl losses to Michigan and Iowa — games in which Florida looked unprepared at times.

Zook showed resiliency through it all. He led the Gators to four straight wins in 2002 and five in a row last season — after it looked like they might finish with losing records. He also has two wins over rival Georgia, the Gators' opponent on Saturday.

Foley even extended Zook's contract after last season, saying he felt the program was on the right track.

The latest problems, however, were too much to overcome.

"In the final analysis, it was apparent to me that something's not working here," Foley said. "I know that's kind of nebulous, but it's the truth. It's hard to put a finger on it exactly, but it certainly just didn't appear to be working as well as envisioned."

## Sooners pull rank, thanks to computers

By CHRIS DUFRENE

Los Angeles Times

Order (for now) has been restored in the Bowl Championship Series standings, and that order is USC, Oklahoma and Miami.

Last week's first release of the BCS standings caused a mini-uproar when Miami, ranked No. 4 in the media and coaches' polls, opened in second position ahead of Oklahoma, No. 2 in both human polls.

This week's standings more accurately reflect popular sentiment — unless you're from Coral Gables, Fla.

USC retained its firm grip on the overall lead with a BCS average of .9843, although the Trojans did slip from No. 1 to No. 2 in the computer index.

Oklahoma is No. 2 at .9325, followed by Miami at .9239.

The top two teams in the final BCS standings will play for the BCS national championship in the Orange Bowl on Jan. 4.

Reaction from Oklahoma coach Bob Stoops was predictable.

"It's really no different than what I said last week," Stoops said in a released statement. "It just doesn't matter much yet. We have to play Oklahoma State this week. That's the only thing we're focused on."

Utah's move from No. 7 to No. 6 was significant because the Utes would be assured of a major bowl

BCS standings												
Oct. 25, 2004												
	AP	USA	ESPN	Computer	BCS							
	Rk	Pts	Rk	Pts	Rk	Pts	Pct	Pct	Pct	Pct	Pct	Pct
1. Southern Cal	1	1610	991	1	1513	992	2	97.90	99.94	1		
2. Oklahoma	2	1557	954	2	1485	953	4	87.0	97.0	2		
3. Miami	4	1441	887	3	1380	805	1	98	98.00	3		
4. Texas	3	1436	914	4	1358	899	3	89	97.00	4		
5. Florida State	5	1366	793	5	1218	799	7	75	75.00	5		
6. Utah	10	1033	679	10	1001	656	8	73	73.00	7		
7. Wisconsin	12	1265	778	6	1152	755	11	62	62.00	7		
8. California	7	1224	759	8	1066	899	14	47	47.00	8		
9. Georgia	6	1217	712	7	1121	712	12	48	48.00	9		
10. Texas A&M	8	1135	692	9	1032	677	12	48	48.00	10		
11. Michigan	9	1066	619	12	954	667	10	46	46.00	11		
12. Michigan	12	985	605	11	970	635	15	40	40.00	12		
13. Boise State	15	852	340	15	830	418	9	69	69.00	13		
14. Texas A&M	16	629	393	17	601	339	8	71	71.00	14		
15. Arizona State	18	425	262	21	346	227	6	77	77.00	15		

Team percentages are derived by dividing a team's points per game by a maximum 1625 possible points in the AP poll and 1525 possible points in the USA Today/ESPN Coaches Poll. Six computer rankings calculated in inverse points order (25 for No. 1, 24 for No. 2, etc.) are used to determine the overall computer component. The best and worst ranking for each team is dropped, and the remaining four are added and divided by 10 (the maximum possible points) to produce a Computer Rankings Percentage. The BCS Average is calculated by averaging the percent totals of the Associated Press, USA Today/ESPN Coaches and Computer polls.

did if they finished sixth or higher in the final BCS standings.

Utah is seeking to become the first team from outside the major-conference power structure to earn a bid to the BCS bowl game — Rose, Sugar, Fiesta or Orange.

For geographical reasons, Utah probably would end up in the Fiesta Bowl, especially if that bowl is the "anchor" tie-in, Oklahoma, to the Orange Bowl.

There also is a scenario in which Utah could end up in Pasadena should the Rose Bowl lose its status to the national-title game and another Pac-10 team is not available.

For Utah, though, holding on to the No. 6 spot is no sure thing.

The Utes boast a powerful No. 5 computer ranking, this week thanks to victories against Arkansas conference schools Texas A&M, Arizona and North Carolina. That computer number could weaken, though, as the Utes finish the season against weaker opponents from the Mountain West Conference.

Oklahoma was able to jump

ahead of Miami this week because the Sooners' computer ranking improved from No. 5 to No. 4. Miami is ranked No. 1 in the computers but No. 4 in the AP poll. Weiberg predicted last week the system would correct itself. All the dry-run models the BCS ran indicated it would be extremely difficult for a team ranked No. 2 in both polls to finish No. 3 in the BCS standings.

It would require the No. 2 team to have a computer ranking of No. 5 or worse.

That's exactly what happened last week when Oklahoma opened fifth in the computers.

It was a very unlikely situation that this would hold up through the balance of the season," Weiberg said at the time.

Other BCS moves to note: Arizona moved from No. 18 to No. 15 while Texas El Paso, led by first-year coach Mike Price, made a surprise appearance at No. 24.

Miners (5-2) need one more victory to match their win total for the previous three seasons combined.

## Northwestern coach checks into hospital

The Associated Press

EVANSTON, Ill. — Northwestern coach Randy Walker has an inflammation of the heart muscle

and was hospitalized for a second day Tuesday.

"He's feeling much better today, resting comfortably," spokesman Mike Wolf said. He said Walker could be released as early as Wednesday.

Walker checked himself into Evanston Northwestern Hospital on Monday after experiencing chest pains before his weekly news conference. The 50-year-old Walker doesn't have a history of heart problems, and Wolf said tests showed his heart is fine.

Wolf said Walker will decide later this week whether he will be on the sideline for Saturday's game against No. 17 Purdue.

### Separated shoulder sidelines Florida State RB Washington

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Florida State tailback Leon Washington Monday missed a game with a separated right shoulder, but could be out longer.

Washington will be out "probably a couple, looking at it optimistically," coach Bobby Bowden said Monday.

Washington, the team's leading rusher with 689 yards and a 98.4-yard average, separated the shoulder during the fifth-ranked Seminoles' 20-17 win Saturday over Wake Forest.

Sophomore Lorenzo Booker, who has split carries nearly 50-50 with Washington and averages

just over 80 yards, will become the Seminoles' featured back.

The Seminoles play at Maryland on Saturday.

### Colorado coach cites disparity in Big 12

DES MOINES, Iowa — If Gary Barnett is right, it's no wonder the South has been so dominant in Big 12 football.

While some shrug it off as merely the cyclical nature of the sport, the Colorado coach thinks teams in the South have a head start. "I don't think there's any question the resources, the traditions of those programs are such that it pays off," Barnett said Monday. "We all go to Texas to recruit. The resources and facilities there are second to none in the country, so they have all of that."

Teams from the South have won 11 of the 14 games between the divisions, with Baylor having four and three losses. All of the Big 12 teams in the Top 25 are from the South — Oklahoma, Texas, Texas A&M and Arkansas State.

North teams have won four of the eight Big 12 championship games, but the best record in that division now is the 2-2 mark shared by Missouri and Nebraska. In the South, Oklahoma and Texas A&M are 4-0, while Oklahoma State and Texas are 3-1.

Barnett did say he thought several other factors were at work in the disparity. He said his program will always go in cycles and Nebraska is adjusting to new coach Bill Callahan and a different offensive coordinator.

"But I think there is a natural sort of advantage that exists in the South," Barnett said.



Jockey Jerry Bailey gives a thumbs-up after winning the Fountain of Youth Stakes aboard Red the Footnotes in February. Bailey will be aboard six horses in the eight-race Breeders' Cup on Saturday.

## Breeders' Cup has name recognition

BY BETH HARRIS  
The Associated Press

GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas — If D. Wayne Lukas, Bob Baffert, Bobby Frankel, Jerry Bailey and Pat Day are at the same track on the same day, it must be the Breeders' Cup.

Texas is hosting horse racing's richest day for the first time, and some of the sport's biggest names are taking aim at eight races worth \$14 million. Some, such as Baffert, are less loaded than in other years.

The white-haired trainer has one contender, Roman Ruler in the Juvenile. Baffert is usually busy saddling many entries, although his 40 starters have produced just three wins, including Vindication in the 2002 Juvenile.

Roman Ruler has three career victories and just missed a fourth when he was beaten by a neck at Del Mar in September.

"Everything is very good," Baffert said Monday. "He's ready."

Lukas will saddle Azeri in either the Distaff or the Classic. Stellar Jayne in the Distaff, and Consolador in the Juvenile. The 69-year-old trainer has a record 140 Breeders' Cup starters, with 17 victories and more than \$18 million in earnings.

The Juvenile has produced Lukas' greatest success, with five winners, but none since Boston Harbor in 1996 at Woodbine.

Azeri will be the favorite in the Distaff if she stays in the race instead of the Classic. She won the Distaff in 2002 on her way to being selected horse of the year. She struggled last year, but won the Spinster Stakes this month at Keeneland and beat Sightseek at Saratoga this summer.

Hall of Fame trainer Allen Jerkins, who is based at Belmont Park, has two chances to end his 9-of-9 Breeders' Cup winless streak. He'll run Bowman's Band in the Classic and Society Selection in the Distaff.

Only six of the 100 horses entered in the Breeders' Cup have run at Lone Star Park, so many owners, trainers, jockeys and horses will be competing here for the first time Saturday.

Bowman's Band, Society Selection and other horses aren't used to the recent hot, humid weather in Texas after coming from chilly New York. So Jerkins plans to chip their hair.

Funny Dice, last year's Kentucky Derby and Preakness winner, will arrive at Lone Star on Wednesday. A year ago, he beat only one horse in the Classic at Santa Anita, where temperatures were nearly 100 degrees and wildfires created a smoky environment. Saturday's forecast is for temperatures in the high 70s.

"That's still a little hot, but he'll deal with it," said Robin Smullen, Funny Dice's assistant trainer.

Dale Romans isn't taking any chances. He arrived from Churchill Downs with Classic contender Roses in May and Turf entrant Kitties' Joy on Oct. 19. They will be his first starters in the event.

"It was hot and we wanted to get used to the weather," he said. "I'm glad we got here early because it's a little better."

A year after winning a record four Breeders' Cup races, Richard Mandella is back with only one chance. Pleasantly Perfect may try to become the second horse to win the \$4 million Classic twice in a row.

"He's as good or better than he's ever been," Mandella said. "In the last year, he's gotten smarter and better in his racing."

Bailey, who has a record 14 victories and more than \$17 million in Breeders' Cup earnings, will be busy Saturday. He'll ride Pleasantly Perfect and defending champion Six Fingers in the Mile.

He'll also be aboard Storm Flag Flying in the Distaff, Balletto in the Juvenile Fillies, Kela in the Sprint, and Aubonne in the Filly & Mare Turf.

# Florida's other fall guy

BY EDDIE PELLIS  
The Associated Press

Maybe the biggest problem when Florida hired Ron Zook to replace Steve Spurrier was this: In the minds of all but the most blindly loyal Gators fans, it was never a matter of if, only when Zook would be fired.

It happened Monday, and the way it went down was probably worse than what anyone could have guessed.

A shouting match at a fraternity house. A loss to one of the 10 worst teams in the country. Sure, Spurrier had forgettable moments in his 12 seasons with the Gators, but never anything like this.

After Florida's humiliating 38-31 loss to Mississippi State on Saturday, there was no more getting around the truth that had been bubbling in Gainesville for a long time. Not only have the once-mighty Gators regressed — under Zook's 2½-year tenure — most people expected a little setback — they have become something of a laughing-stock around the country.

Zook is a good, honest man, and the saddest thing about his failure is that it really isn't all his fault.

As expected, he brought in his top-10 signing classes in all three of his seasons, which is exactly why athletic director Jeremy Foley went out on a limb and hired the lifetime assistant back in January 2002.

Zook is a hard worker, a great recruiter, a loyal coach and employee. He just wasn't ready to be a head coach, and it was Foley's refusal to accept that reality that put him in the horrible situation of having to fire his good friend three years later.

"I accept full responsibility for the decision that has not panned out as we all envisioned," Foley said.

It's an article of faith among leaders of big-time college programs that you don't put a first-time head coach in charge of football. And if you do, he needs to have a résumé much more polished than Zook's was.

As much as getting a grasp on managing games, coaches need to learn about the politics, the boosters, the public-relations aspects of being a top guy, and they need to do it at a lower level before they take over one of the top programs in the country. (Can Florida even make that claim anymore?)

Foley ignored conventional wisdom. After Mike Shanahan and Bob Stoops turned down the job, Foley went to "The Zooker," he calls him, and conceded that had Zook turned down the job, there would have been nobody else left on his list.

## ND's Brey gets contract extension

The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Notre Dame basketball coach Mike Brey received a two-year contract extension after leading the Irish to three NCAA tournament appearances in four seasons.

It is the second two-year extension for Brey, who signed a seven-year contract in July 2001. The new contract, which was announced Monday, runs through the 2010-11 season.

"Simply speaking, Mike Brey has done a brilliant job leading Notre Dame basketball back to national prominence," athletic director Kevin White said. "Mike represents the perfect Notre Dame fit."

Brey, 45, has an 84-44 record at Notre Dame and led the Irish to 20 wins and NCAA tournament bids in his first three seasons and an NIT berth last season.

Notre Dame and Syracuse are the only Big East teams to post winning conference records each of the past four years.

Brey said he and White began talking about the

Theory, as Foley explained it then, was that signing day was approaching, he needed to get a coach quickly, and there was no time to sift through the backgrounds and baggage of some of the other names flying around at the time — Rick Neuheiser and Jon Gruden, to name a few.

Foley may have been right. The problem, though, came in having a list with only three names.

Zook tried to ignore the constant negativity aimed his way — see firefromzook.com — and kept plugging away. The ultimate gripper at a school that got used to having a quick-witted showman leading the way.

The embarrasments came quickly and they were about more than just losing or the incident at the fraternity house.

Days before his first Florida State game, Zook made the bone-headed PR move of placing an unprecedented gag order on his team, even though it was the Gators who were in turmoil at the time. He said it was to keep the Gators focused. They lost 31-14.

A few weeks later, Florida lost to Michigan in the Outback Bowl when Zook called for a receiver to pass to Rex Grossman on a late drive that would have tied the game. It was the college equivalent of turning John Elway into a receiver with 2 minutes left. The pass got intercepted. After the game, Zook made the startling concession that he'd let his assistants talk him into calling the play.

The list goes on, but the results stayed the same. Zook is 20-13 with four games left. Spurrier lost 27 times in 150 games.

"It was a culmination of disappointments — a lot of different things," Foley explained.

Ironically, the timing of the firing may be the best decision Foley has made in regard to Zook's tenure. Zook will coach the rest of the season, and his players — most of them as stubbornly loyal to him as he is to them — will almost surely play hard for him. It would come as no surprise to see the Gators win this weekend against Georgia, which would make Zook 3-0 against Florida's archrival.

But the best thing about the timing is it gives Foley some breathing room to make a good decision. Already, Utah's Urban Meyer is being considered a candidate because he's got a sharp football mind and because Florida's new president came from Utah.

Whether it's Meyer, Stoops or — could it really happen? — an answered "S.O.S." call for the return of Stephen Orr Spurrier, Foley needs to make a long list, interview thoroughly and make the right choice. Because some day, Zook might get another chance. Athletic directors, however, usually only get one do-over on a decision this important.

contract extension in the spring and reached an agreement last week.

"This is a place that you should wind down your coaching career at," Brey said. "Hopefully I'm good enough where they'll let me do that. It's up to me now."

**Wisconsin's Wade on indefinite leave of absence**

MADISON, Wis. — Boo Wade, expected to compete to be Wisconsin's starting point guard, is taking an indefinite leave of absence from the team. Coach Bo Ryan announced the move Monday, saying Wade needed to "concentrate on some personal issues," and there was no timetable for his return. Ryan didn't give any details.

Wade, a junior, was suspended for two games last season after his ex-girlfriend accused him of choking her during an incident in early February at their apartment.

Wade pleaded no contest in April to two misdemeanor counts in a sex deal. After the team was reduced to disorderly conduct. A charge of ball jumping resulted because Wade continued to contact the woman after he was initially charged.



Florida athletic director Jeremy Foley, above, hired Ron Zook despite Zook's lack of head coaching experience.

# Investigators examine wreckage for clues

## Official says Hendrick plane slashed through treetops before crashing

BY CHRIS KAHN  
The Associated Press

PATRICK SPRINGS, Va. — Without a flight data record or cockpit voice recorder, investigators were trying to piece together what caused a Hendrick Motors plane to crash by poring over the wreckage, radar data and transcript of chatter between the pilot and air traffic controllers.

National Transportation Safety Board officials said they do not immediately know what caused the Beech 200 King Air to crash Sunday en route from Concord, N.C., to Blue Ridge Airport for a NASCAR race at Martinsville Speedway. Ten people died.

"We're in the data gathering phase of this investigation," the NTSB's Brian Rayner said Monday.

The Hendrick Motorsports plane — carrying family and friends of one of NASCAR's top teams — missed its first landing attempt before it veered off course and smashed into Bull Mountain, investigators said.

The crash killed everyone aboard, including the son, brother and two nieces of team owner Rick Hendrick. Hendrick did not join the flight because he wasn't feeling well, a team spokesman said.

Pilots of at least 20 other planes, most of them carrying sponsors and race fans, decided it was too dangerous to land at Blue Ridge Airport on Sunday, and instead touched down at Danville Regional Airport where landing in bad weather is easier.

Mike Rembold, manager of General Aviation Inc. at the Danville airport, said the

pilots couldn't get into Blue Ridge because of fog.

"They were missing approaches," he said. "They would go down and not see the runway and then go back up. They headed here instead."

Rayner told reporters it looked as if the Hendrick plane slashed through the treetops for about 100 feet before crashing into the southeast face of Bull Mountain. The impact left a crater in the mountainside and remnants were thrown another 100 feet.

By Monday afternoon, the seven NTSB and Federal Aviation Administration investigators had recovered all of the bodies, then retreated to a church at the base of the mountain to pray.

Earlier, a chaplain from the Motor Racing Outreach group met with Hendrick employees for a prayer service at the firm's North Carolina compound. Counselors and chaplains were available for workers.

News of the crash halted Hendrick driver Jimmie Johnson's victory celebration after the Subway 500 in Martinsville as word of the deaths reached the Hendrick team, which also includes drivers Jeff Gordon, Terry Labonte and Brian Vickers.

Ronnie Foley, 48, and Timothy Cooper, 43, said they saw the plane fly over Sunday while they were waiting for the race to begin on TV.

"It was like it was idling. It sounded like it was at about half throttle," said Cooper, who was about three miles from the crash site with Foley.

"Not that it sounded funny," Cooper said. "It just wasn't as loud as it should



National Transportation Safety Board investigator Dennis Diaz, right, holds on as driver Jeff Immortan reads his four wheeler to head up Bull Mountain to the site of the Hendrick Motorsports plane crash in Patrick Springs, Va. Ten people died in the crash on Sunday.

have been."

The dead were Ricky Hendrick, 24, Rick Hendrick's son, John Hendrick, Rick Hendrick's brother and president of Hendrick Motorsports; Kimberly and Jennifer Hendrick, John Hendrick's 22-year-old twin daughters; Joe Jackson, an executive with

DuPont; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, 50, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Lathram, 38, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy, 51, of Charlotte, N.C., and Elizabeth Morrison, 31.

On the Net: <http://www.hendrickmotorsports.com>

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**Education Focus**  
In Sunday Scene, this Sunday

BY MIKE HARRIS  
The Associated Press

Richard Childress can empathize with at least some of the despair that fellow NASCAR team owner Rick Hendrick is going through.

Nearly four years ago, Dale Earnhardt was killed while driving for Childress in the Daytona 500.

"I looked at Dale as a brother, and I know what Rick and that whole team are going through today," Childress said Monday.

Just 24 hours earlier, a plane owned by Hendrick Motorsports crashed. All 10 people aboard were killed, including Hendrick's son, brother and twin nieces.

"What Rick's got to go on now is rely on the people around him," Childress said. "He's going to find he has got a lot of support from his team, his family and the people in the garage."

Hendrick has spent 20 years as a NASCAR team owner and is one of the big players in the sport. Yet for all his success, he has never lost the wide smile and easy manner that make him welcome wherever he goes.

"Rick is one of those guys who is everybody's friend," said Terry Labonte, who has driven for Hendrick since 1994. "He can't walk

20 feet in the garage without someone wanting to shake his hand or have a conversation."

Now, Hendrick is grieving like never before.

The plane crashed in fog en route to a NASCAR race in Martinsville, Va. The dead included Hendrick's son, Ricky; brother John; and John's twin daughters, Jennifer and Kimberly.

Also killed were Joe Jackson, an executive with DuPont; Jeff Turner, general manager of Hendrick Motorsports; Randy Dorton, the team's chief engine builder; Scott Lathram, a pilot for NASCAR driver Tony Stewart; and pilots Richard Tracy and Elizabeth Morrison.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. said this latest tragedy hit the racing community "like a hammer to the chest."

The 55-year-old Hendrick, owner of one of the nation's biggest networks of auto dealerships, already had a championship drag boat team when he established his NASCAR operation in 1984 with Geoffrey Bodine as his first driver. The fledgling team won three races that season and has added 125 more wins, including Jimmie Johnson's victory Sunday in Martinsville.

That first team had fewer than 20 full-time employees and a small shop. The Hendrick Motor-

sports empire of 2004 has 460 workers at its North Carolina compound, which includes several race shops, buildings for the engine department, a fabrication department, a paint shop and a museum and team store.

"As you look back at NASCAR 100 years from now, people are certainly going to think of Rick as one of the great car owners," Childress said. "I've always said he has class and integrity and he's always been one of my favorite people."

Hendrick's team released a statement Monday on behalf of the family, thanking everyone for the "outpouring of support."

Hendrick is credited with starting the trend of multicar teams, and he employs Johnson, four-time NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon, two-time champion Labonte and Brian Vickers as his Nextel Cup drivers. The team won an unprecedented four consecutive Cup championships from 1995-98.

Hendrick has had good times off the track. He was a technical adviser for the Tom Cruise movie "Days of Thunder" and was one of the four original owners of the Charlotte Hornets.

There have been less happy times, however. Tim Richmond, who drove for Hendrick in the '80s, had his career cut short by

AIDS, which eventually killed him.

In 1996, Hendrick was diagnosed with a rare form of leukemia. He underwent chemotherapy and a bone marrow transplant, turning over the operation of his team to his brother until 1999, when the disease went into remission.

During that period, Hendrick pleaded guilty to mail fraud involving the payment of \$20,000 to a Honda executive. He was fined \$250,000 but avoided jail time because of his leukemia. He was later pardoned by President Clinton.

"I don't know what I would have done without John during that time," Hendrick said after resuming leadership of the team. "He gave me so much support and stepped in, and everything just kept on going like clockwork."

His brother has remained an integral part of the team as president. Hendrick, however, made it clear his plans for the organization revolved around his son, who decided after an injury during a Busch Series race at Las Vegas to give up driving and concentrate on being a team owner.

"It affects all of us in motorsports when good people with great talents are taken away from you," said driver John Andretti. "We are all family in this garage."

# Chargers downplay confrontation between Manning, Wayne

The Associated Press

**INDIANAPOLIS** — Peyton Manning and Reggie Wayne kept quiet Monday. Their Indianapolis Colts teammates didn't think they needed to say a word.

One day after Manning and Wayne engaged in a shouting match near the end of a 27-24 loss to Jacksonville, the primary participants did not make themselves available to reporters, as usual. Other players tried to explain what led to Sunday's sideline confrontation.

**NFL briefs** It's football. Guys get hot and tempers flare," center Jeff Saturday said.

"You didn't see us pulling guys back, so it's not that big of a deal." It was an uncharacteristic distraction for a team that won four straight games before Sunday's loss.

Wayne and Manning jawed briefly at each other, faces mask to facemask, and Wayne even shoved last year's NFL co-MVP moments before the offense went back onto the field with 33 seconds left in the game.

Colts players tried to downplay the incident.

Saturday said he thought it was blown out of proportion and acknowledged he's engaged in occasional shouting matches either in the huddle or on the sideline with other offensive linemen, calling it part of the game.

## Arrington re-injures knee

**ASHBURN, Va.** — LaVar Arrington sustained his eighth straight injury to his right knee, a setback for the three-time Pro Bowl linebacker who is hoping to play this week after missing four games.

Arrington was hurt on a wet practice field as the Washington Redskins returned from a four-day, bye-weekend vacation. "I think he just kind of slipped on the grass out there," coach Joe Gibbs said.

Arrington had surgery on the knee Sept. 23. He was optimistic that he could use the extra week of rest during the bye to return for Sunday's game against the Green Bay Packers.

Arrington took the field in full pads Monday, but his injury prompted yet another trip to see a doctor before practice ended.

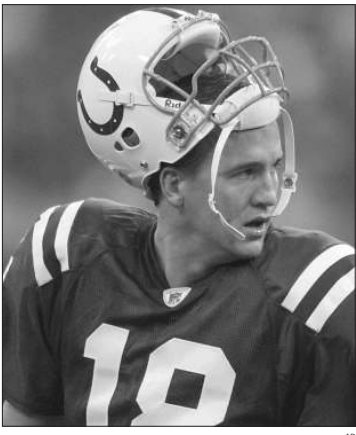
"I don't think it's much of a setback, but we'll see," Gibbs said.

## Bears pickup Couch

**LAKE FOREST, Ill.** — The Chicago Bears passed up the chance to sign Tim Couch and will stick with the three quarterbacks on their roster with rookie Craig Krenzel possible starting Sunday night's home game against San Francisco.

Couch, the top overall pick in the 1999 draft, had a tryout on Friday and Saturday with the Bears, who lost starting quarterback Rex Grossman to a season-ending knee injury in the third week.

Both Krenzel and Jonathan Quinn played a half in Sunday's 19-17 loss to Tampa Bay. Krenzel, in his first NFL appearance, completed nine of 19 passes for 69



Colts quarterback Peyton Manning got into a heated exchange with receiver Reggie Wayne during Sunday's loss to Jacksonville.

## NFL injury update

Injuries to prominent NFL players, followed by team's prognosis. (See Friday's edition for complete injury report provided by the league.)

**Buccaners:** RB Mike Alstott (knee) out at least four weeks.

**Ravens:** OT Jonathan Ogden (hamstring) and TE Todd Heap (knee) are both questionable.

**Cowboys:** WR Terry Glenn (foot) out at least two weeks.

**Titans:** RB Chris Brown (toe) is questionable.

**Panthers:** RB DeShaun Foster (collarbone) will have surgery and miss the rest of the season.

yards and led the Bears to their only score. But he also threw an interception.

Quinn, who had a 77-yard screen pass TD called back on the first play, was 5-for-9 for 47 yards after making his third straight start.

Smith would not say who would start practice Wednesday as the No. 1 quarterback. But he did say the Bears were no longer interested in Couch.

"As much as anything, we like the three quarterbacks, we're working with right now," Smith said.

## Fisher says McNair day-to-day

**NASHVILLE, Tenn.** — Steve McNair is hurting, frustrated and just wants to get healthy.

For now, the Tennessee Titans will only say he's day-to-day. McNair bruised his sternum for the third time in five weeks during Sunday's 20-3 loss at Minnesota. The latest hit didn't send him to a hospital like the first one on Sept. 26, but he spent three quarters on the sideline in enough pain he could only take shallow breaths.

Couch Jeff Fisher said Monday that a CT scan showed a hematoma on McNair's sternum and that

the quarterback still was sore.

Whether McNair rests Sunday when the Titans (2-5) host the Cincinnati Bengals is uncertain. Fisher listed McNair as questionable the week the quarterback spent two nights in a hospital, then deactivated him before a loss at San Diego.

"The Titans have their bye Nov. 7," which would offer McNair a chance to rest.

"We've discussed it," Fisher said. "We'll consider it, but we'll see how he is. When he was a little sore last week, we held him out of practice. He came back ... and was fine. He's going to have to work through this. We'll just list him as day-to-day."

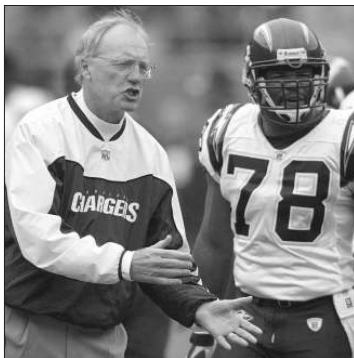
## Moss expected to play more against Giants

**EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn.** — Randy Moss is expected to play a meaningful role for the Minnesota Vikings this weekend against the Giants, even without a fully healed right hamstring.

The Vikings started Moss on Sunday to keep his consecutive games streak alive at 102, but the All-Pro wide receiver was limited to two snaps and did not catch a pass in Minnesota's 20-3 victory over Tennessee.

"Hopefully he'll progress more this week, and we'll be able to use him in an active role," coach Mike Tice said Monday. "I don't anticipate he'll be at speed enough to play his normal role, which is every play of the game and every situation."

Tice said he didn't know if his star would practice this week, but he indicated Moss could be used inside the 20-yard line or on third downs on Sunday against New York.



Chargers head coach Marty Schottenheimer, left, wants San Diego to keep its 4-3 record and playoff outlook in perspective.

# San Diego charged by talk of playoffs

By BERNIE WILSON

The Associated Press

**SAN DIEGO** — Surprise, surprise. Look who's above .500 and talking about making a playoff push.

None other than the San Diego Chargers.

A year ago, the Chargers were the NFL's worst team and missed the playoffs for the eighth straight season. Now they've won as many games as they did last year, improving to 4-3 with a 17-6 road win over last year's surprise team, the Carolina Panthers.

After splitting games in consecutive trips to the East Coast, the Chargers feel like they actually have a chance.

"We want to make a playoff push," said running back LaDainian Tomlinson, who continues to play despite a strained groin muscle that had him limping off the field Sunday.

"I think we are in a very good position," said quarterback Drew Brees, who was all but shoved aside by management in the off-season, only to bounce back remarkably with a 95.5 passer rating, sixth best in the NFL.

"We like where we are right now," Brees said. "We are starting to find ourselves as a team. We are kind of blinding that path in where we want to go."

They're also trying to keep it in perspective. After all, they started 6-1 in 2002, Marty Schottenheimer's first season as coach, only to lose seven of their last nine. In 2001, Tomlinson's first season, the Chargers were 5-2 before losing their last nine.

Still, the Chargers clearly are opening some eyes around the league.

"I've gotten phone calls from friends, and people are kind of surprised at how much success we've had thus far," said linebacker Steve Foley, who signed as a free agent in the offseason. "I'm trying not to get overly excited

about it. We still have tons of ball left. But I'm feeling good as far as where we're at right now. The atmosphere in the locker room is positive, and that's what it's going to have to continue to be for us to be successful."

"No one's riding a high horse or anything, but everyone realizes what we have here and our potential. I guess, how far we can go and how many victories we can get," Foley said. "So hopefully it'll get us in the playoffs."

That would be fine with newly acquired wide receiver Keenan McDardell, who helped the Tampa Bay Buccaneers rout the Oakland Raiders in the Super Bowl here two seasons ago.

"I think we can make the playoffs," said McDardell, who caught five passes for 65 yards in his Chargers debut after missing the first six games with the Bucs in a holdout. "I'm not going to put us out on a limb like that, but if we keep getting better, why not? We're in the hunt just like everybody else. Why not?"

Only two of the Chargers' last nine opponents have winning records. Next up are consecutive home games against Oakland (2-5) and New Orleans (3-4).

Schottenheimer, naturally, doesn't read too much into the Chargers' record.

"We're 4-3. And that's only one game above .500, and .500 won't get it in this league," he said. "But he does like the direction the Chargers are going, that they're picking up Wade Phillips' 3-4 defense and how McDardell brings a needed veteran presence to the receiving corps."

And he practically raved Monday about rookie kicker Nate Kaeding, who's made 10 of 11 field goal attempts and all 21 PATs, and punter Mike Scifres, a second-year pro who repeatedly has pinned opponents deep in their territories.

"The biggest difference is the kicking game," Schottenheimer said. "It's dramatic."



## NFL scoreboard

## American Conference

	East	West	South	North
New England	1	0	1	0
N.Y. Jets	0	0	0	0
Buffalo	0	0	0	0
Miami	0	0	0	0
Jacksonville	0	0	0	0
Indianapolis	0	0	0	0
Houston	0	0	0	0
Tennessee	0	0	0	0
Pittsburgh	0	0	0	0
Baltimore	0	0	0	0
Cleveland	0	0	0	0
Cincinnati	0	0	0	0
Denver	0	0	0	0
San Diego	0	0	0	0
Kansas City	0	0	0	0
Oakland	0	0	0	0

## National Conference

	East	West	South	North
Philadelphia	1	0	1	0
N.Y. Giants	0	0	0	0
Dallas	0	0	0	0
Washington	0	0	0	0
Atlanta	0	0	0	0
New Orleans	0	0	0	0
Tampa Bay	0	0	0	0
Carolina	0	0	0	0
Minnesota	0	0	0	0
Green Bay	0	0	0	0
Chicago	0	0	0	0
St. Louis	0	0	0	0
Seattle	0	0	0	0
San Francisco	0	0	0	0

Miami 31, St. Louis 14	1	0
Detroit 26, N.Y. Giants 13	1	0
Baltimore 26, Buffalo 6	1	0
Kansas City 16, Atlanta 10	1	0
Jacksonville 27, Indianapolis 24	1	0
San Diego 17, Carolina 7	1	0
Philadelphia 24, Cleveland 11, OT	1	0
Minnesota 26, Tennessee 3	1	0
New England 13, N.Y. Jets 7	1	0
Green Bay 41, Dallas 20	1	0
Atlanta 25, Seattle 17	1	0
New Orleans 31, Oakland 26	1	0
Open: Pittsburgh, Washington, San Francisco, Houston		

Miami at N.Y. Jets	1	0
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**Play the**

**Challenge**

**WIN CASH!**

Monday in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

## Johnson comes through for Bengals

## Star wideout sets tone early for Cincinnati

BY JOE KAY

The Associated Press

CINCINNATI — The ball was in the air and Champ Bailey was on the ground, watching Chad Johnson pull away with no one between him and the end zone.

Would the chastened receiver drop the ball the way he did so many times a week ago? Not a chance. Not with his reputation on the line. Not with a city's hopes on his fingertips.

Johnson's 50-yard touchdown catch gave the Cincinnati Bengals the gunption they needed to beat the Denver Broncos 23-10 in their long-awaited and somewhat dreaded return to "Monday Night Football."

"This was what we needed," said Johnson, who had seven catches for 149 yards.

Rarely has a franchise and a city needed so much from one game.

The Bengals (2-4) hadn't hosted a Monday night game in 15 years and hadn't even played in one since 1992, an exile that reflected their ineptitude. No other team had gone so long without appearing in the Monday night lineup.

As this one approached, a sense of dread festored. The crowd of 65,806 — the largest ever at Paul Brown Stadium — was hoping the last-place team wouldn't become another national embarrassment.

Quite the opposite. The Broncos (5-2) played the role of bumbler, failing to get what it needed out of the league's top turning game and one of its very best defenses.

"We just didn't have it," said Reuben Droughns, who ran for 110 yards but fumbled and failed to convert short-yardage plays. "It seemed like they had more fight than us."

One play got the Bengals hyped for the upset.

Johnson ran right past Bailey,



Bengals receiver Chad Johnson celebrates with fans after Cincinnati beat Denver 23-10 on Monday night.

who stumbled and fell while the receiver pulled away for his 50-yard touchdown play midway through the first quarter. All it took was one play to get the Bengals believing.

"They believe in coming man-to-man and loading up to stop the run," said quarterback Carson Palmer, who was 12-of-21 for 198 yards. "We were counting on Chad, leaning on Chad to get open and catch balls downfield."

He did it all night, winning the marquee matchup of Pro Bowl receiver vs. Pro Bowl cornerback. "I'm not afraid of any challenge," said Bailey, who has rarely been beaten so often. "I feel like I am the best. I don't care who I am out there."

He had trouble covering a re-

ceiver who was fighting some soul-searching after this one.

The Bengals repeatedly gave them openings to rally, managing only three field goals out of five drives inside the 20-yard line. Denver simply wasn't up to it.

Jake Plummer threw two interceptions and was sacked three times. And a defense that ranked among the league's best in every category allowed Johnson to get open and Rudi Johnson to run for 119 yards and a touchdown.

"They were ready for a big game," said Plummer, 23-for-40 for 221 yards.

And now, they're ready for another. "Please come back before 2019 A.D.," a fan's sign pleaded to Monday night schedulers. Request noted.

## Injured secondary is Packers' primary concern

BY ARNIE STAPLETON

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — The Green Bay Packers might have to play in Washington this week with four starters in the secondary who weren't in the lineup last season.

Safety Darren Sharper and cornerback Al Harris sprained knees in Green Bay's win over Dallas on Sunday.

Sharper left in the second quarter with a frayed posterior cruciate ligament, a rare injury even in the NFL. A brace is on order and surgery has been ruled out, coach Mike Sherman said Monday.

Bhavoh Joe, who replaced Sharper on Sunday, would start in

his spot opposite newcomer Mark Roman if Sharper can't play against the Redskins.

Harris sprained the medial collateral ligament in his right knee in the second half but stayed in the game.

"We're going to rest it up and ice it and pray," he said.

If he can't play Sunday, the top options to start opposite left cornerback Ahmad Carver are fellow rookies Joe Thomas and Jason Horton.

Sharper was injured in the second quarter when he leaped to spike the ball away from receiver Keyshawn Johnson in the end zone and Johnson came down on top of him.

He limped to the locker room,

and an MRI on Monday confirmed a sprained PCL, the knee's primary ligament for stability, which prevents the knee from bending backward. A complete tear of the ligament would have required reconstruction and up to a year of rehabilitation.

Joe is in his fourth year and has played mostly cornerback in the nickel and dime sets when healthy, although he's been practicing at safety all season.

Kue, who gave up winning touchdowns to Philadelphia and Kansas City when pressed into duty at cornerback last season, said he won't disappoint this time around.

"If the guy is passing me the keys to the car, I'm going to make sure I don't crash it," he said.

Thomas made his debut in the dime defense Sunday and got extensive playing time once Sherman went out.

Sherman said Michael Hawthorne, who started the first five games at left cornerback before Carroll won the job, isn't as good an option to play Harris's spot on the right side.

"I think he believes, as we do, that his best position is at safety," Sherman said.

Quarterback Brett Favre also is injured with a sprained right hand, and his practice work will be limited this week, offensive coordinator Tom Rossley said.

The Packers (3-4) have their open date after facing Washington (2-4), but Sherman said that won't affect who suits up against the Redskins.



Photo courtesy of Spencer P. Lane

Capt. Jill Metzger, an executive officer at U.S. Air Forces in Europe's operations section, won the Air Force Marathon in September and will run in this week's Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

## Air Force Marathon champion Metzger pulling double duty

BY RUSTY BRYAN

Stars and Stripes

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany — Jill Metzger's clearly not one to rest on her laurels.

Just 38 days after winning a second straight Air Force Marathon last month in Dayton, Ohio, Metzger left Germany on Tuesday to run this Saturday's 29th annual U.S. Marine Corps Marathon in Arlington, Va.

Even by the up-tempo standards of today's military, the six-week break between the two races is the marathon equivalent of back-to-back missions.

"It wasn't planned that way in advance," Metzger, 31, said of her marathon-a-month schedule. "In August, a message came down from Air Force headquarters requesting people to represent the Air Force in the Marine Corps Marathon. Since I had won the Air Force Marathon the year before, I was kind of name-embedded in the request."

Metzger, who has run in 16 marathons, knew that running in both races would be tough. Her training has been limited by her 12-hour days as executive officer for the operations section of U.S. Air Forces in Europe war-fighting sub-component.

"I was torn at first," said Metzger, who added that she usually plans her training for an event a year in advance. "I knew I wasn't going to be as prepared as I should be."

In the end, however, her Air Force pride and her competitive juices tipped the balance.

"I'm going to do more than just run," she said. "I'm going to shoulder the responsibility of representing the Air Force and build relationships with runners from the other services."

And compete in a big-time event. "The Air Force Marathon is

*"I'm going to shoulder the responsibility of representing the Air Force and build relationships with runners from the other services."*

Jill Metzger  
marathon runner

fairly new," Metzger said of the event she's dominated the past two years. "The Marine Corps event is much larger. It's a seasoned, mature event attractive to professional runners." Although Metzger, who said she's never had any formal marathon coaching, is quick to stress that she's an amateur and not a professional, she's hoping the strong field will help her reach a goal she's set for Saturday.

"I'd like to go under three hours," said Metzger, who won at Dayton in 2:06:06.

Can she better that time just six weeks later?

"That's a pretty quick turnaround," said Leigh PLOWMAN of Garmisch, who placed 27th in his age category at last year's Ironman Triathlon in Hawaii. "But she won't have to worry about peaking at the right time. She'll have to depend on her high level of fitness."

Metzger is philosophical about the limited training regimen.

"If you're not ready a month before the race, you're not ready," she said. "I'm relying on my training over the past several months to see me through."

It's not as though she's never stacked races before.

"The shortest amount of time for me between marathons was one week," she said, recalling an astounding September in 2002.

In Sept. 2002, Metzger ran the Air Force Marathon, then turned around the following weekend to run the Berlin Marathon with her friend, Capt. Angela Johnson, she said.

"We ran the marathon in memory of her late husband, Capt. Luke Johnson, who had planned to run in Berlin but was killed in an F-16 crash at Spangdahlem in March 2002," Metzger said. "She trained and ran in his place."

Metzger, who will start Saturday's race with less emotional turmoil than in Berlin, said she hopes her Air Force victory will serve as a slingshot for Saturday.

"When you're preparing for a marathon, there's more involved than just training," she said. "You have to reach a competitive level, usually by scheduling a race sometime before the event. The Air Force Marathon will help me achieve my competitive edge."

To Metzger, a former college soccer player at East Carolina University who didn't begin running seriously until commissioned in the Air Force eight years ago, competition is the stuff of life.

"Once you get a taste of victory," said Metzger, who has won four marathons in her career. "It's like blood to a vampire. It feels so good it's almost like a drug. Once you get it, you want it again."

Metzger downplayed her chances, however, of tasting victory for a fifth time in her career this Saturday.

"I'm not shooting for first place," she said. "I'll try to be as competitive as possible."

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## It's all too easy for Sox diehards

### Up 2-0, cursed fans can't get cocky

BOSTON — Not too giddy, now, all you members of Red Sox Nation.

Deep breath, Cowboy down. You immigrants, newly ennobled in this deeply scarred territory, arriving by jam-packed handwagon, you don't know any better, of course. It just looked like a cool place to hang out, with all that energy and all that hair.

But all you native sons and daughters, the diehards who have spent their whole life on this hallowed turf, you folks with all those generational wounds to heal — like the guy carrying the sign outside Fenway Park Sunday that read, "Will Donate Semi-Healthy Liver For Tickets" — you, of all people, should know better.

Granted, that two-games-to-none lead over St. Louis, after Sunday's 5-2 victory at Fenway, looks awfully enticing, especially with Pedro Martinez ready to go on Tuesday against — hold your smirks — Jeff Suppan.

We all know that Pedro chewed up the Jeff Suppans of the world and spits them out. He's their daddy. And when he runs out of gas at Busch Stadium, as he invariably does these days, they've got the indefatigable Keith Foulke just waiting to make it right.

The Red Sox seem touched by some higher power right now, and for once, it's a good thing.

They've got Curt Schilling pitching on the "inspirational miracle a week" installment plan. He was brilliant again Sunday, his ankle tendon jerry-rigged into shape long enough to work six nearly flawless innings, after he woke up Sunday morning convinced he couldn't pitch.

The Red Sox have Schilling to draw upon, "a man among kids," Johnny Damon said. The Sox have Mark Bellhorn, about to be inducted into the Unknown Hero Hall of Fame. They have David Ortiz, being pitched around like he's the American League MVP. Bonds — and for good reason. They've got Foulke breaking all of Tony La Russa's rules about using a closer for more than one inning.

It's so close now, you can almost taste the celebratory Sam Adams.

Right now, if the Red Sox can whip the Cardinals twice while making four errors a game, just imagine what they can do if they remember to pack their gloves for the trip to St. Louis.

Wrong attitude. These are the Red Sox. This could just as easily be a setup for disaster as for triumph. You see, you never know when you see one? Have you forgotten your history so quickly, oh, deluded ones?

Teams can blow 2-0 leads. Heck, in 1985, the Red Sox won the first two games of the World Series against the Mets — in New York, no less — and if memory serves, that didn't end well.

Larry Stone



than Tony Lama. Four E's a game is not exactly the patented formula for success.

Sunday, it was Bill Mueller playing the role of Manny Ramirez, committing not one, not two, but three errors, and living to tell the tale. Sure the field was slick, but the Red Sox are playing like the ball's been batted in baby oil.

Said Damon, "We made some mistakes, but you know what? Big deal."

Danger, nation, danger. Now's not the time for the Red Sox to go all cocksure on you. Oh, they said all the right things in the victorious clubhouse about learning their lesson in the Yankees' loss, that it ain't over till it's over. But saying it and embracing it are two different things.

"Two-oh is a great position to be in, but the next game is the most important of the season," Damon said. "We're going out with that attitude. We'd much rather be 3-0 than 2-1."

That's the spirit, particularly in light of the fact that St. Louis had the best home record in the majors this year and hasn't dropped a postseason game at Busch in six outings.

The Cardinals, however, were showing definite signs of frustration as they headed out of Boston. Pitching coach Dave Duncan, asked about the 14 walks and three hit batters his pitchers have yielded in 16 innings, bristled a bit.

"We'll see how patient they are when we get to St. Louis," he said. "I'll be impressed if they're that patient in St. Louis."

Ray King, the Cardinals' reliever, ranted about the slow pace of American League baseball, questioning the Red Sox for taking too long to change pitchers and taking too long to get into the batter's box.

"American League games are too long," said King. "Baseball's a game where you get in and out. You bat, you throw, you catch. If you want to be on TV, become an actor. You're at the ballpark, you're ready to go, it's a game of baseball, not a fashion show."

Yeah, the reeling Cardinals are frazzled and desperate, needing nothing less than a major upgrade and/or a Red Sox collapse to save them.

In other words, got 'em right where they want 'em.

Larry Stone is a sports columnist for The Seattle Times.



## SPORTS



At 4-3, surprising Chargers  
opening eyes around league,  
Page 28

# Cardinals set to nest

## Return to Busch changes St. Louis' outlook

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

ST. LOUIS — Players were back in shirt sleeves, and many of the 96 arches atop Busch Stadium were lit by the late-afternoon sun as the Red Sox took batting practice.

It sure wasn't Boston.

It was 78 degrees when the Red Sox worked out Monday in St. Louis' 130-foot high, cookie-cutter ballpark. That was 28 degrees higher than the temperature back in Boston, where the Red Sox won Games 1 and 2 of the World Series last weekend.

Boston's quirky Fenway Park, opened in 1912, has its idiosyncrasies: the Green Monster in left, the triangle in center, the Pesky Pole in right, the Cask 'n' Flagon behind The Wall.

Busch Stadium is boring, 330 feet down each foul line, 372 to left and right, 402 feet to center, the 8-foot padded green fence topped by a yellow stripe all the way around. But behind the left-field seats is Eero Saarinen's 630-foot high, stainless steel Gateway Arch, opened in 1967, a year after the ballpark.

And the visiting manager's office has two pictures of Babe Ruth, whose sale by the Red Sox to the Yankees in 1920 may or may not have started The Curse.

Grass replaced artificial turf in 1996, and a hand-operated scoreboard with adjacent flags commemorating the team's World Series titles and retired numbers was erected on much of the outfield upper deck the following year.

This ballpark once was a state-of-the-art tribute to modernism.

Now it leaks and is so outmoded that the Cardinals plan to knock it down in 2006 and move to a new \$387 million, 46,000-seat Busch Stadium that is rising behind the outfield and first-base seats.

"They really did a great job turning this from one of those bowls, cookie-cutter stadiums, into a great stadium," Red Sox manager Terry Francona said. "I really love this stadium."

So do the Cardinals.

St. Louis was 53-28 at Busch during the regular season, the best home record in the National League, and is 6-0 there during the postseason.

SEE BUSCH ON PAGE 31



The Gateway Arch rises out of left field at Busch Stadium in St. Louis, the site of Games 3-5 of the World Series.

## Bengals earn a prime rate

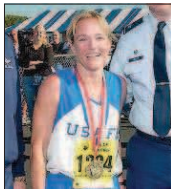


Bengals Brian Simmons and Caleb Miller (58) converge on Broncos running back Reuben Droughns during the third quarter. Cincinnati won 23-10 in the first Monday night game it has hosted in 15 years, using big plays by receiver Chad Johnson to set the tone. See story on Page 29.



Investigators  
examine wreckage  
as racing mourns  
with Hendrick

Page 27



Ramstein runner  
makes quick turn  
for Marine race

Page 30

Spurrier might be at top of Florida's list to replace Zook Page 25